

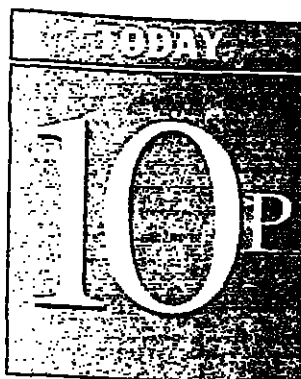
THE TIMES

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TAKE HEART FROM A GLASS

Dr Thomas Stamford's guide to healthy drinking PAGE 17

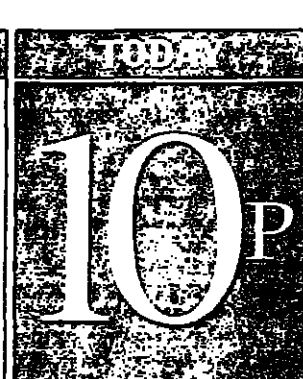


UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT 16 PAGES

THE FUTURE OF CRICKET

Special report PAGES 30, 31

GOAL FEAST AT BLACKBURN PAGE 25



Anger after 'shabby politics' claim

Hague sparks row over Blair Palace 'leaks'

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE political truce over the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, ended abruptly yesterday when William Hague accused Tony Blair of making capital out of the tragedy.

The Conservative leader accused Downing Street of shabby politics by briefing the media on the Prime Minister's advice to the Royal Family after the Princess's death.

But his intervention appeared to have backfired last night when Buckingham Palace expressed astonishment as ministers and constitutional experts joined in a chorus of criticism.

Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, said: "It is disgraceful and William Hague ought to apologise to the Labour Party and the nation. It's despicable." And Lord St John of Fawley, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, said: "Tony Blair handled the death extraordinarily well. He spoke with great dignity and expressed the feelings of the people at the time."

Stung by suggestions that he had lacked gravitas in his remarks on the day the Princess died, Mr Hague fought back yesterday in an interview for *Breakfast with Frost* on BBC television. He said that he was annoyed that Downing Street had leaked confidential advice to the Palace in an attempt to cast the Prime Minister in a favourable light and to reflect badly on the Royal Family. He also accused the Government of exploiting the Princess's death by refusing to appoint any Conservatives to the committee which will decide on a permanent memorial.

The Tory leader said: "Now that's shabby politics. It's bad government and it's no way to support the Royal Family in the future. I can't believe that that has been done with the sanction of the Prime Minister, but he should prevent it happening."

Referring to the memorial committee chaired by Gordon Brown, Mr Hague said: "It should either be all-party or it shouldn't have any politicians on it. This is not a political matter. The whole nation, people of all political parties, shared the same sense of grief and the Princess did not belong to one political party."

Mr Hague added that it was inconsistent of the Government to invite Liberal Democrats to sit on Cabinet committees, but to restrict the Diana committee to the Government. He said: "I don't want to make a huge political controversy over these things, but I want to make it clear to the Government that there is a limit to what they can do without people saying you're taking political advantage."

Labour sources could barely believe Mr Hague's remarks, which they described as a spectacular own-goal. One senior source said: "He has made a monumental error. Everybody knows that Tony Blair united the nation. William Hague seems to have forgotten the first rule of politics: when you are in a hole, stop digging."

Another government source said that Mr Brown was unlikely to be moved by Mr Hague's call for a seat on the memorial committee, adding: "We want to hear from the British public. The only suggestion we have had from William Hague is that Heathrow should be named after the Princess."

The Palace was more diplomatic, but clearly surprised by Mr Hague's intervention. A spokesman said: "Everyone knew we were consulting the Government. It all went very smoothly."

Conservatives defended Mr Hague last night, however, by circulating press cuttings showing how Downing Street had allegedly manipulated coverage to reflect well on Mr Blair. One newspaper said: "Blair made it clear to Prince Charles that the public would not stand for a private funeral."

Conservatives insisted that such insights could have come only from Downing Street. Francis Maude, the Shadow Culture Secretary, told BBC Radio 4: "We know that the Number Ten machinery was having a lobby briefing every day. The constant implication was that the Royal Family were wrong but Mr Blair, who is so close to the people, was right."

Philip Webster, page 2
Leading article, page 2
and letters, page 21



The people of Greenham surged on to the common yesterday as the fences erected to defend the US air base were torn down. Report, page 8

Judges denied free rein on human rights law

By FRANCES GIBBS
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government's plans for Britain's first Bill of Rights in 300 years will preserve Parliament's supremacy and deny judges power to strike down statutes that are inconsistent with human rights.

But courts may be able to declare offending laws "invalid", opening the way for Parliament to amend or abolish them.

Without such a power, lawyers predict that the reform — a key plank of Labour's constitutional programme — will prove ineffective and will do nothing to stop the stream of cases to the European Court of

Human Rights in Strasbourg. Lord Lester of Herne Hill QC, has put forward a legal model for the reform based on New Zealand's legal system but with "more teeth".

The White Paper for the Human Rights Bill, expected towards the end of next month, will require courts to interpret laws in line with the European Convention as far as possible. Where there is a conflict, under Lord Lester's model, the Act will be amended by Parliament. Without that power, lawyers say judges will be unable to ensure laws are in line with the new Act.

Ben Emmerson, a barrister and editor of the *European Human Rights Law Review*,

said: "Under the New Zealand model, if there is a conflict between a law and the Human Rights Act, the act must give way to the offending legislation, whenever it was passed. If adopted here, this will do nothing to reduce the number of cases which currently go to Strasbourg."

Also at issue is whether judges in lower courts should decide points themselves, or refer difficult cases up to the divisional court or Court of Appeal. Both solutions carry problems. If judges at the "coalface" are to decide, then a huge training programme would be needed as most of them are not versed in human rights law.

The proposed Act has also prompted concerns of a massive upheaval in the courts, both criminal and civil. Defence lawyers are expected to argue a host of human rights points on behalf of suspects in criminal trials, with potential for huge delays in the criminal justice system. At the same time, a boom is predicted in judicial review challenges.

The White Paper is expected to:

- Propose a fast-track procedure for any offending laws held by the courts as "inconsistent" with human rights to be amended by Parliament.
- Give courts powers to invalidate secondary legislation, which includes all the rules

and procedures drawn up in codes of practice under statutes.

There will be no new specific "tort" or civil wrong but courts will be able to award compensation in line with the small awards made in Strasbourg by the European Court of Human Rights.

Judges from the Court of Appeal and High Court, with some circuit judges, will be addressed by experts and Government officials at a conference later this month which is being held by the Judicial Studies Board and the Law Commission. A Bill is expected to follow early next year and to be in effect by next summer.



All change

Labour is to change its procedures for selecting candidates as a result of devolution in Scotland and Wales. Page 10
William Rees-Mogg, page 20

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TV & RADIO	46, 47
WEATHER	24
CROSSWORDS	24, 48
LETTERS	21
OBITUARIES	23
PETER RIDDELL	20
ARTS	18, 19
CHESS & BRIDGE	40
COURT & SOCIAL	22
BUSINESS	41-46, 48
MIND & MATTER	15
FEATURES	16, 17



Unionists keep everyone guessing on peace talks

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

HISTORIC full-scale peace talks on the future of Northern Ireland open at Stormont this afternoon with the Ulster Unionist Party's presence still uncertain and the Democratic Unionist Party demanding Sinn Fein's expulsion.

The leadership of the UUP, whose attendance is vital if the talks are to have any chance of success, will decide this morning what to do. The party is extremely unlikely to engage Sinn Fein face-to-face at this stage, but it could agree to negotiate through intermediaries. Another possibility is that it will stay away until it receives assurances on three key issues.

The party wants the Irish Government to state unequivocally — as Tony Blair did last Friday — that there can be no constitutional change in Northern Ireland without the consent of a majority of its people; it wants London and Dublin to state that some IRA disarmament will be required during the talks; it wants to know that the entire republican movement is committed to the Mitchell principles of de-

mocracy and non-violence — principles disavowed by the IRA last week.

A UUP executive meeting on Saturday approved the party's participation in the talks process, but authorised the leader David Trimble to decide the exact tactics. He emphasised his determination to "defend the union" and said: "The Unionist voice will be heard one way or another. The party would be involved directly or indirectly in a process that involves Sinn Fein, but we still have to explore the precise procedural options that exist (and) the position of the other parties."

This morning Mr Trimble will meet the loyalist Ulster Democratic and Progressive Unionist parties, which are also undecided. With the DUP and UK Unionist Parties boycotting the talks, those three would all have to attend to provide the required majority of Unionist votes for any decisions to be taken.

Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, said that proximity talks made no sense and demanded that the

UUP join it at the negotiating table. "It's time to stop all the stalling and delaying tactics and move forward to bring the peace settlement all our people desire and crave."

But today's proceedings will almost certainly be dominated by questions about Sinn Fein's presence at the talks following the IRA's statement on the Mitchell principles. Ian Paisley's DUP has sent George Mitchell, the chairman, a formal request that Sinn Fein be expelled on the grounds that it is inseparable from the IRA and has therefore reneged on Gerry Adams's commitment to those principles last Tuesday.

While Sinn Fein's expulsion is unlikely, even the prime minister acknowledged over the weekend that Mr Adams had a lot of questions to answer.

The Pope urged prayers for the talks: "People of every sector of society there have shown an earnest and sincere desire for a peaceful solution to the long-standing conflict."

Long march, page 6
Leading article, page 21

Acrobats cross the Thames by tightrope

By MATTHEW BEARD

TWO acrobats walked into the record books last night by completing the first two-man tightrope crossing of the River Thames.

As darkness fell and at a height of 150ft and without a security net beneath them, Didier Pasquette and Jade Kindar-Martin crossed a 1,000 ft wide stretch of the river from opposite directions along a steel wire stretched between two cranes.

To aid concentration the two men, both experienced highwire walkers carrying balancing poles, communicated by voice-activated radio as ambulance and medical teams watched on.

The crossing between the Oxo Tower and Victoria Embankment is one of the widest stretches of the river which last night was shallow and would have offered no protection had either man fallen. Pasquette, 29, of France, who previously completed a tightrope walk stretched between the twin towers of Wembley Stadium, said before his latest venture: "If we fall, we die."

As the sun set over a breezy

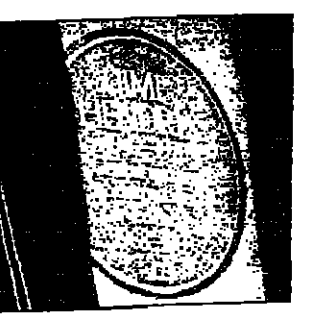
and chilly night the start was delayed by 20 minutes as engineers tightened the rigging in an attempt to minimise the swing of the wire.

The two-man walk has been attempted three times before — the last time 25 years ago — but never by two people walking from opposite banks, and stepping over each other in the middle.

Kindar-Martin, from the United States, and Pasquette met in a French circus troupe of acrobats, fire-eaters and jugglers and have performed stunts since their teens. They rehearsed for this, their most dangerous stunt, in a French cornfield.

The crossing was to publicise the Thames Festival, to be held in 1999 in celebration of Britain's longest river. It also coincided with the centenary of the death in England of the legendary French acrobat Jean Francois Grevet, otherwise known as "Blondin", whose greatest feat was to cross the Niagara Falls on a tightrope, embellishing the performance by repeating it blindfolded and wheeling a barrow.

Hendrix joins Handel with pop's first blue plaque



JIMI HENDRIX, the definitive wild man of rock, was still causing controversy yesterday — 27 years after his death. An English Heritage blue plaque was unveiled to the guitarist on a building next to one which remembers George Frideric Handel.

The Handel Society is reported to be annoyed about the plaque at 23 Brook Street, Mayfair, where Hendrix lived in 1968-69 with Kathy Etchingham, who proposed the honour. But Pete

Townsend, from The Who rock group, said as he unveiled the plaque: "There's been a lot of talk about whether a rock performer deserves to be on the building next door to George Frideric Handel, and I think he does."

"I think that not all performers in pop and rock deserve this honour; I think Jimi does. He was so special, so extraordinary. He's up there for me with Miles Davis and Charlie Parker as a virtuoso, an innovator."

Ms Etchingham, now a Surrey housewife, told friends who had gathered that she was glad to see them fit and well. "I'm astonished, considering what we used to get up to 30 years ago," she joked.

About 2,000 fans mobbed Hendrix's father, James, 78, and sister Janie, 36, who watched the unveiling. Hendrix becomes the first pop performer to be honoured with a blue plaque.

Handel collection, page 5

Who are we?

We are a new British company created by the merger of Mercury with three leading cable companies — Bell Cablemedia, NYNEX CableComms and Videotron.

We have a global telecoms network and cable TV network which will run past 6 million homes and businesses.

We are now called Cable & Wireless Communications. Today's paper shows you a few of the things we can do for you. Some are available now. Some are just around the corner.



CABLE & WIRELESS
Where can we do for you?

The Times saw no sign of 'shabby politics' over Diana's death

POLITICAL journalists found themselves playing an unusual role after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and in the week leading up to her funeral.

Usually, royal stories have few direct political implications and reporters from the Westminster lobby would have only a partial involvement in them. But this was no ordinary royal story. Usually, under this and past governments, Downing Street would offer very little information about its contact with the Palace.

Perhaps the most surprising of William Hague's accusations against the Government yesterday was that there had been confidential briefings to the Press designed

to put the Government in a good light and the Royal family in a bad light. That is not the experience of this newspaper. On the morning of the tragedy it was clear that the Government was deeply involved. Tony Blair, as Prime Minister, was clearly duty bound to speak to the nation on that Sunday morning.

Then, on the Monday morning, Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's Press Secretary, called an open Downing Street briefing to talk about the funeral arrangements. Both Palace and Downing Street wanted to put over the message that it was not to be a funeral for the "great and the good".

Several Government depart-



It was an extraordinary week for political reporters, but not so extraordinary as William Hague's accusations against Labour. Philip Webster reports

ments were clearly involved in the practicalities of the funeral plans from the start. At the two briefings, open to all the national newspapers and broadcasting organisations, Mr Campbell never uttered a word of criticism of the Royal family.

Perhaps more significantly I can say that in around ten private

conversations I had with Mr Campbell during that week, Mr Blair's press secretary never strayed from that stance of total support for the Palace.

He was given every opportunity to do so. At that stage of events, with the Press and public in full cry over the absence of a flag over Buckingham Palace, and the

Queen's prolonged stay at Balmoral, a rift between Downing Street and the Palace would have been yet another sensation. But it never happened.

It is true that this newspaper judged from the briefings given by Downing Street that Mr Blair was always in favour of a big state event to mark the Princess's death. But that was hardly surprising after his first words about her and his description as her "the People's Princess". It briefed about funeral arrangements and was clearly well-placed to do so as three or four of Mr Blair's leading officials were regularly at the Palace to discuss plans. But Downing Street did not, in the experience of this paper,

break the convention about not revealing the contents of discussions between Mr Blair and the Queen.

Downing Street steadfastly refused to say anything about what happened at Balmoral last Sunday, the day after the funeral, when Mr Blair spent four hours with the Queen. Not surprisingly, that did not prevent journalists having a stab.

Conservative anger, however, over what they see as Mr Blair's "hijacking" of the whole event for his own purposes has been evident for more than a week — and that was what was really behind Mr Hague's remarks yesterday. From the moment Mr Blair called her

"the People's Princess", the Labour Government had taken ownership of her, according to one Tory insider yesterday. "They have always called themselves the People's Party — now they have the People's Princess and soon they were briefing about the People's Funeral."

Mr Hague's friends know that yesterday's accusations were risky because he could be seen as putting himself on the side of the Royal family against the Princess. It was a gamble that he was clearly aware of when he prepared for yesterday's interview. According to one insider: "There has been a lot more politics in this than most people realise and sooner or later someone had to come out and say something."

Experts reject Hague's criticism

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CONSTITUTIONAL experts praised Tony Blair yesterday for behaving with dignity after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and for observing the conventions governing relations between Downing Street and the Palace.

Dismissing the criticisms from William Hague, the Conservative leader, they said that the Prime Minister had been quite within his rights to allow his press advisers to brief the media on discussions about the funeral. Lord St John of Fawsley, the former Tory Cabinet minister who has edited the works of Walter Bagehot, the Victorian chronicler of the constitution, said: "I think Tony Blair handled the death extraordinarily well. He spoke with great dignity and expressed the feelings of the people."

Prime Ministers have no textbook to instruct them in such matters, and Downing Street faced uncharted waters after the death of the Princess. But a number of conventions have evolved.

The cardinal rule is that the contents of the Prime Minis-

ter's weekly audience with the Queen are never divulged. Only the Queen and the Prime Minister are present and no notes are taken as the Sovereign exercises her right to advise, encourage and warn her Prime Minister. Mr Blair met the Queen at Balmoral the day after the Princess's funeral and strictly observed this convention.

The conventions governing discussions between Downing Street and Palace officials are more relaxed. Mr Hague said that it had been wrong of Downing Street to brief journalists about Mr Blair's central role in opening up the funeral to the people.

However, Ben Pimlott, of Birkbeck College, a biographer of the Queen, said that it was acceptable for Downing Street to brief the media on these discussions as long as the Palace was not cast in an unfavourable light. Professor Pimlott said: "The Prime Minister's people would have been very careful not to say anything that differed from the Palace and that would embarrass them."



Sold out: shoppers looking for copies of *Candle in the Wind* were disappointed yesterday in Oxford Street

Canada questions royal ties

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

THE Canadian Government is flirting with a plan to cut its ties with the monarchy. Two Cabinet ministers have suggested that it is time to open a debate in Canada on whether the Queen should continue to be the Canadian head of state or whether she should be replaced by a Canadian.

John Manley, the Industry Minister, told a newspaper in Vancouver, the most royalist of Canadian cities, that it was time to replace the monarchy.

"If we don't soon engage the discussion, the British will have done away with the monarchy before Canadians do," Mr Manley said. "My personal view is that it is probably time for us to say, 'It's been a great institution'."

Mr Manley said, however, that Canada should wait until the "death or demise of Jean Chrétien, the Prime Minister, also joined the debate. He said during a week-end interview that he, too, would appreciate a review of the monarchy. Mr Chrétien told reporters that there were "no plans" at present to review the role of the monarchy.

At the time that he might have been quoted out of context. But Mr Manley's statements appear to indicate that Mr Axworthy's remarks were not accidental.

Mitchell Sharp, a former Canadian Foreign Minister who is considered a mentor of Jean Chrétien, the Prime Minister, also joined the debate. He said during a week-end interview that he, too, would appreciate a review of the monarchy. Mr Chrétien told reporters that there were "no plans" at present to review the role of the monarchy.

Elton tops chart with 600,000 sales in one day

By STEPHEN FARRELL

ELTON JOHN'S *Candle in the Wind* yesterday reached platinum sales of 600,000 and went to the top of the chart just one day after its release. His tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, will almost certainly be the fastest-selling British single of all time, eclipsing Band Aid's 1.6 million first-week sales of *Do They Know It's Christmas?* in 1984.

A thousand staff worked a special shift at Mercury Records' pressing plant in Blackburn yesterday after record shops sold out of the £3.99 CD and £1.99 cassette within hours.

Band Aid went on to sell 3.51 million in the UK and seven million worldwide. The rewritten version of *Candle in the Wind* already has nine million advance orders worldwide.

Some believe it could remain the No 1 in Britain until Christmas, breaking the 16-week record held by Bryan Adams with *(Everything I Do) I Do It for You*.

Each copy will raise £2.50 for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and the final total is estimated at £10 million. The remainder of the price will cover costs of production and distribution.

Robert Partridge, a Mercury spokesman, said: "It has been an incredible few days and we have gone into completely uncharted territory."

There have also been high

sales of John Tavener's classical hymn, *Alleluia, May Flights of Angels Sing Thee To Thy Rest*, which was sung at the Princess's coffin was carried from the abbey.

Buckingham Palace and the Princess's home village of Great Britain were quickly returning to normal yesterday. Staff began gathering the thousands of flowers laid outside the Palace and Althorp in Northamptonshire, and 11 books of condolence placed in St Mary the Virgin parish Church have been closed.

The Palace refused to confirm reports that the Princess's apartment at Kensington Palace was to be divided into flats for members of the Royal Household to avoid them becoming a painful reminder to Prince William and Prince Harry. A spokeswoman said no final decisions had been taken.

French police announced they were to hold a night-time reconstruction of the crash in which the Princess died, using the same paparazzi who followed the car on the night.

The announcement came as the Princess's personal bodyguard, Alexander Wingfield, gave his account of events leading up to the crash.

Mr Wingfield, 32, drove a decoy car past the accident but had no idea that the Princess, Dodi Fayed, Trevor Rees-Jones and Henri Paul were in the wreckage.

Sunday tabloids promise new code of restraint and respect

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

SUNDAY tabloids gave assurances yesterday about their future coverage of the Royal Family and the use of photographs purchased from freelance photographers.

The *News of the World*, the biggest-selling Sunday newspaper, told readers that it was introducing strict rules to ensure that "jobs masquerading as photojournalists will be cut off for ever from the respectable newspaper world".

The paper, like *The Times* part of News International, said that all the press bore some responsibility for supporting such people. In future the *News of the World*, which has in the past been criticised for publishing pictures taken with long-range lenses on private property, will ban photographs which do not

meet the guidelines of the code of conduct of the Press Complaints Commission.

"This forbids the taking of long-range photographs on private property and the merciless stalking and pursuing of people in the news," the paper said in an editorial.

Bridget Rowe, Editor of *The Sunday Mirror*, gave readers "a firm and absolute assurance that we will respect the privacy of the young Princesses". The *People* promised to work with the commission to protect William and Harry and "to introduce stricter rules regarding their privacy".

However, there was not total accord among editors about conduct after the Princess of Wales's death, in particular the need for privacy laws. Tony Blair has made

NEWSWORLD
OUR VIEW
We'll black out prying photo yobs

THE *News of the World* today introduces strict new rules in its deal.

The pledge made to readers yesterday

clear that he does not want such legislation but at the weekend a second editor offered his support for it.

Charles Moore, of *The Daily Telegraph*, told a special edition of *Hard News* on Channel 4: "There should be a civil law of privacy because all

human beings in a free society have a right to privacy. That right definitely needs to be protected partly by law because at present it is constantly breached."

Earlier this year Alan Rusbridger, Editor of *The Guardian*, supported privacy legislation as part of a package also guaranteeing freedom of information.

At the weekend Conrad Black, chairman of The Telegraph Group, criticised Sir David English, Editor-in-Chief of the *Daily Mail*, in his role as chairman of the code of practice committee of the commission. He told a Canadian business audience that having Sir David as chairman of the committee was like appointing "Al Capone as head of the commission to investigate organised crime in Chicago in the Twenties".

Teachers to learn in the classroom

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PRIMARY school teachers struggling to grasp government methods for teaching reading and writing will be retrained by local authority instructors in front of their pupils.

Two hundred literacy consultants will be appointed by local councils to instruct primary school teachers, a government report says today. Weak teachers in the four in ten primary schools deemed in need of intensive support will find themselves retrained on the job. These will include teachers identified by parents on the proposed hotline for reporting poor performance directly to the Government's Standards and Effectiveness Unit.

Next year a governor from each school will be trained alongside the head teacher to implement and monitor the drive to improve literacy standards. Michael Barber, head of the Standards and Effectiveness Unit, said: "A lot of the teacher training will be in the classroom during the lesson.

There is nothing more effective, according to the research, than seeing another qualified professional doing what they want you to do."

Professor Barber chaired the Literacy Task Force for Labour before the election when it proposed a daily literacy hour for every primary school. This is included in a package of measures in his report *The Implementation of the National Literacy Strategy*, sent to every local authority today, which he said was a "failsafe system" of introducing proven methods into every classroom.

The report details the Government's key literacy strategies: an hour a day on reading and writing, emphasis on the phonics method of sounding out individual letters to build up words, and urging parents to spend 20 minutes a night reading with their children. By 2002, the target is for 80 per cent of 11-year-olds to reach the national standard for their age compared with just over 50 per cent at present.

Sunday becomes day of shopping

By A STAFF REPORTER

SUNDAY shopping has become an essential part of the nation's weekend — but although more shops are opening they are not making extra profits, according to a new report.

Three years after Sunday trading was introduced, more than half of the population take advantage of the law change, the annual survey found.

Shopping has overtaken more traditional pastimes on the "day of rest". Only one in eight Britons now regularly sits down to a family Sunday lunch. The number of shops open increased by 6 per cent in the past year, says the survey for the international property consultants Healey & Baker. Of the major 100 cities and towns, 97 have more than 10 per cent of their shops open. Twenty-two of the top 25 shopping centres are open.

But the report says that Sunday trading is mainly "rearranging the same level of weekly consumer expenditure", rather than generating

extra spending. The average increase of profits was just over 1 per cent for the shops that open, while 45 per cent of retailers trading on Sunday said they had no additional profit.

Paul Orchard-Lisle, senior partner at Healey & Baker, said: "Sunday trading is now firmly established. People value it and town authorities have embraced it. It may not lead to increased profits for retailers but those that are not open risk losing out."

There were lessons for retailers considering opening later at night throughout the week, he said. "It is 'chicken and egg'. Until a large number of stores are open late, it is difficult to judge the potential demand. The probability is that the marginal return on costs is unlikely to be worthwhile after 9pm."

Supermarkets are the most popular destination, followed by out-of-town DIY and garden centres.

Awkward customer, page 10

15 Sept 97

BE HERE TONIGHT

OASIS - Mad for it. 5

Part 1: the press story, tonight at 7pm.

Treatment aids cancer victim to have baby

By Ian Murray and Stephen Farrell

THREE years after emerging from a gruelling regime of chemotherapy which left her infertile, Gill Garnham yesterday praised the pioneering fertility treatment which gave her a baby son, Frederick.

The experimental technique involves surgeons implanting eggs taken up to five years earlier before the eggs were exposed to the harmful effects of the cancer treatment.

It has given new hope to patients facing the twin despair of illness and sterility and made her one of the first women to undergo high-dose chemotherapy who went on to have her own child.

Mrs Garnham, 36, a marketing manager from Wadhurst, Kent, believes she would never have been a mother if doctors had not advised her of the possibilities on the dismal day in 1993 when they broke the news that her Hodgkin's disease, a cancer of the lymph glands, had returned.

She had first been first diagnosed with the disease in November 1991, three months after her marriage, but emerged after 18 weeks' chemotherapy and four weeks' radiotherapy with only a temporary effect on her fertility.

However the recurrence meant a second course of treatment, and a grave risk of permanent sterility. "When I was told I had a recurrence of the cancer, the last thing I thought about was having a baby," she said yesterday.

When it recurred the last thing I thought was having a baby

"I knew I would have to undergo chemotherapy again and there was no chance of keeping my fertility."

"It was as though a door had been slammed in my face, but I knew statistically I had very little chance of surviving so I wasn't even thinking about having a baby."

"However, the day I was told I had the cancer again, the doctor treating me at the Royal Marsden Hospital said they could hold off the chemotherapy long enough to put me through one cycle of in vitro fertilisation."

"I knew it was my last chance and as a result of that we were able to get five embryos and have them frozen in case one day I got better."

With the support of her husband Neil, 38, a barrister, and the hope provided by the chance of one day becoming a mother, she fought through the second illness.

However the doctors' worst fears proved correct, and she had to undergo a high-level chemotherapy in January and February 1994. Although this removed all the cancer, it left her with no chance of ever producing her own eggs.

"All the cells in the body are destroyed and they have to recover. Not everyone gets through that and even then your chances of survival for two years are only 35 per cent," she said. "I believe that the fact that I knew the embryos were there and that I might still one day be a mother was one factor which made me hang on and gave me hope."



Gill Garnham, her husband Neil and their baby Frederick. She praised doctors for helping her with pioneering treatment

Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. In May last year a 'dummy run' with three of the embryos proved unsuccessful after one did not develop properly and the other two failed.

Six months later, in November, the last two were implanted. "That was really our last chance and statistically I knew there was only a 20 per cent chance that it would work. But it did."

"I had a really good pregnancy and it even made me feel better of the dreadful tiredness and lack of energy I had never really got rid of after the chemotherapy treatment."

Frederick, a 7lb 9oz baby, was born by Caesarean at Pembury Hospital in Tonbridge, Kent, three weeks ago, just after her sixth wedding anniversary.

Lord Winston said the case was one of only a handful that had so far been successful using IVF with a patient who had undergone massive chemotherapy treatment. "It is very important that people realise this sort of thing can be done," he said.

of young people have permanently successful cures. However a lot of specialists do not seem to realise that some patients find it worse to be confronted with sterility than by the knowledge that they are suffering from cancer.

"The fact that this patient has been able to have a healthy baby after all she has been through will give much-needed hope to others."

Detective Chief Inspector Dave Stevens, said: "It appears this crime was pre-meditated. It is not necessarily professional, as such, but it looks like it was planned and that they knew the victim would be there. Although Mr Clifford owned the property, he did not live there. It would have been a bizarre coincidence if the killer had turned up there by chance at precisely the time Mr Clifford did."

Drug link clue to contract killing

By Tim Jones

A MILLIONAIRE scrap dealer may have been murdered by a contract killer in a drug-related attack. Ray Clifford, 44, died in the early hours of Saturday morning from gunshot wounds to his head as he visited the yard of his firm in a wooded country lane.

Detectives are trying to discover why Mr Clifford, from Rochester, Kent, was lured to his isolated scrapyard near the hamlet of Lidsing, near Chatham. Police believe the murder was planned and the gunman knew that Mr Clifford, who was married with two children, would turn up.

Some local people, who would not be named, claimed that Mr Clifford had made many enemies and alleged he was a "big time" drugs dealer. One said: "He had stepped on many people's toes as he made millions of pounds from drugs. Any one of scores of his enemies could have pulled the trigger." Another said: "He was a nasty piece of work and he had a lot of enemies."

Detective Chief Inspector Dave Stevens, said: "It appears this crime was pre-meditated. It is not necessarily professional, as such, but it looks like it was planned and that they knew the victim would be there. Although Mr Clifford owned the property, he did not live there. It would have been a bizarre coincidence if the killer had turned up there by chance at precisely the time Mr Clifford did."

Generous readers send Polish girl to Oxford

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

A TALENTED Polish student too poor to attend Oxford University was told yesterday that she can take up her place after a huge response to her British school's appeal for help in *The Times*.

Donations ranging from £25 to £2,000 poured in for Paulina Wojtowska, 18, who gained five As at A level at Millfield School in Somerset even though English is her third language. Such was the response that Pembroke College, where she starts her course next month, was also able to fund an Albanian student similarly unable to afford the place she earned.

Miss Wojtowska's plight was disclosed in *The Times* on August 18. She was said to be the best linguist that Millfield, where she studied on a scholarship, has ever had and wanted to study Japanese to help her aim of becoming a diplomat for Poland.

Speaking from her parents' home near the Polish border with Russia yesterday, Miss Wojtowska said: "I have just received confirmation from Oxford and I cannot believe it. I had given up hope. I tried and tried but it was just impossible to get any money here. I really didn't think I was going to Oxford and I am incredibly grateful to everyone who has helped."

Ray Rook, development director at Pembroke College, said donations for Paulina included 17 of £500 or less and five pledges of £1,000-a-year. Three trusts contributed large annual sums.

Miss Wojtowska, from Rzeszow, needed around £15,000 for each year of a four-year course, to cover the £9,300 tuition fees for overseas students, £3,000 college fees and £3,000 living expenses.

The largest individual donation, of £2,000, came from a woman with no Millfield or Pembroke connections who said she was "touched by the article in *The Times*" and wanted to remain anonymous. A former Pembroke student



Paulina Wojtowska wants to be diplomat

pledged £500 and offered to persuade two of his friends, and a woman whose daughter is studying Japanese at a different Oxford college promised to send course books.

Dr Rook said: "One donor sent a cheque but no address and we would like to thank her, and all the others."

He added: "Paulina was over the moon when I phoned her. It is difficult to say whether we have got enough money or not to be honest, because some is still promised and it is not all in the bank. But we felt we had to tell her to come and we will do our best over the four years."

One trust which contacted Pembroke after reading about Paulina's plight, decided instead to sponsor the Albanian student in full when it heard the appeal for the Polish girl was going well.

Jonida Gjodede, 18, had similarly given up hope of being able to take up her place at Oxford.

Miss Gjodede, from Flore, will be only the fourth Albanian in the last ten years to reach Oxford. She gained the equivalent of 12 starred-A grades at GCSE in Albania and won a scholarship to the Red Cross Nordic World College in Norway. She will study economics and management at Pembroke College.

Another academician rails against Hindley exhibition

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

THERE was another outburst from an academician yesterday over the decision by the Royal Academy of Arts to exhibit sculptures involving blood, dismembered limbs and a portrait of Myra Hindley.

Ralph Brown, a sculptor represented in the Tate Gallery and international collections, spoke of his disgust at the "art" and called for the resignation of Norman Rosenthal, the exhibitions secretary. In a letter to the president, Sir Philip Dowson, he promises to "exert every effort to get rid of" him.

Mr Brown expressed support for a fellow academician, Michael Sandle, who resigned last week over the matter: "I do understand why he exploded. But I will

stay and fight my corner." While academicians such as Tom Phillips and Norman Ackroyd support the show, the vast majority, Mr Brown stressed, had told the RA that for reasons of "decency and good taste", the Hindley portrait should not be shown.

He suggested that last Thursday's 26-19 vote to include it in the exhibition would have seen a different outcome if members who live abroad or outside London had been able to attend. The vote distorted the majority view, he has told the President, Sir Philip Dowson.

He said he had been assured that the Hindley portrait would be withdrawn "but it wasn't and I'm not keeping quiet any

longer". The work of the Chapman brothers was particularly offensive: "The pastiche Guya jin which dismembered limb, torso and head hang from a tree are just disgusting."

Norman Rosenthal, the exhibitions secretary, is blamed by many of the academicians for the latest developments. In his letter to Sir Philip, Mr Brown says: "I will exert every effort to get rid of Rosenthal. He has been there too long, and the harm he has done to the academy in this case far outweighs any good he has done in the past."

David Gordon, the academy's secretary, said Mr Rosenthal had "initiated over 20 years' superb exhibition after another".

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Leaders who dominated their times, for good or evil: Hitler (No 14), Schwarzkopf (49), Patton (95)

Washington leads the march of time

Michael Evans looks at an American historian's controversial ranking of the world's most influential military leaders

A SENIOR American army officer and historian has produced a controversial list of the hundred most influential military leaders of all time. It includes Adolf Hitler and Saddam Hussein, but excludes Sir Winston Churchill.

The ranking of the leaders, from the fifth century BC to Desert Storm in 1991, was compiled by Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Lanning, a decorated Vietnam war veteran who served on the staff of General Norman Schwarzkopf from 1986 to 1987, when he was

commander of the US Army's 1st Corps. Top of the list is George Washington. Also included are William the Conqueror, Oliver Cromwell, Nelson and Field Marshal Montgomery.

Colonel Lanning, 50, was awarded the Bronze Star for valor in Vietnam in 1969 and since he left the US Army has written ten books. He accepted that his book, which is to be published in Britain later this month, would inevitably invite criticism. He said he had initially drawn up a list of 150 names but

had whittled them down to 100 and had included only those military leaders who had dominated their times, for good or evil, and had exerted profound influence on the future.

Stalin is not on the list, nor is Churchill. Colonel Lanning said that although Churchill had a huge influence on the conduct of the Second World War he was a political leader and had not commanded military operations.

General Colin Powell, the former Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, who was General Schwarzkopf's superior officer in the Desert Storm campaign, was also left off the list, but General Schwarzkopf is included.

The most influential British military leaders on the list include Cromwell (number 19) who led his forces to victory over the Royalists in the Civil War in the seventeenth century but whose military career did not begin until he was 40; the Duke of Wellington (22) who earned his place as one of the greatest leaders long before his final defeat of Napoleon; the Duke of Marlborough (31), one of the premier military leaders of the eighteenth century; Nelson (35), perhaps the most influential admiral in history; and Field Marshal Alan Brooke (44), commander of all British troops in the Second World War. Montgomery is listed at number 63.

Colonel Lanning admitted there was an American bias in his selection. George Washington, commander of the American Continental army and the first President of the United States, who he rated at number one, was "the most influential military leader of all time", Colonel Lanning said. "I'm



Washington: without him "there would be no United States"

not talking about the best military leader but the most influential. George Washington was not a great general but he kept the American army together and without him there wouldn't be a United States today."

General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, who served with the 1st Airborne Division in Greece, Italy and France up to 1945 and is a military historian, disagreed with the order of Colonel Lanning's top one hundred and said famous British commanders should have been higher up the list.

"Wellington should be higher than number 22, he never lost a

battle," he said. He was also astonished at the omission of Stalin. "If Hitler is included, then Stalin should be on the list because he dominated the Russian military command," he said.

Sir Anthony also decried the absence of Field Marshal William Slim, who commanded the 14th "forgotten" Army in Burma and won a resounding victory against the Japanese. "He was a great general," Sir Anthony said.

□ *The 100 Most Influential Military Leaders*, by Michael Lanning (Robinson: £7.99)

Leading article, page 21

TOP 100 GREATEST MILITARY LEADERS

- George Washington, 1732-1799
- Napoleon, 1769-1821
- Alexander the Great, 356-323 BC
- Genghis Khan, c.1167-1227
- Mongol leader
- Julius Caesar, c.100-44 BC
- Gustavus Adolphus, 1594-1632
- Swedish king during Thirty Years War
- Francisco Pizarro, c.1475-1541
- Spanish conqueror of the Incas
- Charlemagne, 742-814
- Holy Roman Emperor
- Isabella Cortés, 1485-1547
- Spanish conqueror of the Aztecs
- Cyrus the Great, c.590-c.529 BC
- Persian king
- Frederick the Great, 1712-1786
- Prussian king
- Simon Bolivar, 1783-1830
- South American liberator
- William the Conqueror, c.1027-1087
- Adolf Hitler, 1889-1945
- Alfred the Great, c.871-899
- George Marshall, 1880-1959
- US chief of staff in Second World War
- Peter the Great, 1672-1725
- Russian Tsar
- Dwight Eisenhower, 1890-1969
- American general
- Oliver Cromwell, 1599-1658
- Douglas MacArthur, 1880-1964
- United Nations commander in Korea
- Karl von Clausewitz, 1780-1831
- Prussian general and author of *On War*
- The Duke of Wellington, 1769-1852
- Sun Tzu, c.400-350 BC
- Chinese author of *The Art of War*
- Hernán Cortés, 1485-1547
- Spanish conqueror of Mexico
- Tamerlane, 1336-1405
- Tartar conqueror
- Antoine Jomini, 1779-1869
- French general
- Eugene of Savoy, 1663-1736
- Austrian marshal and ally of Marlborough
- Fernández González de Córdoba, 1453-1515
- Spanish general who revolutionised 16th century warfare
- Sebastien de Vauban, 1633-1707
- French marshal, master of siege warfare
- Hannibal, c.247-c.183 BC
- Carthaginian general
- The Duke of Marlborough, 1650-1722
- Winfield Scott, 1786-1866
- American general
- Ulysses S. Grant, 1822-1885
- American civil war Union general
- Scipio Africanus, c.237-c.183 BC
- Roman general
- Horatio Nelson, 1758-1805
- John Puff, 1875-1965
- British general and military analyst
- Henri de la Tour d'Auvergne de Turenne, 1611-1675
- French marshal
- Alfred Mahan, 1840-1914
- American admiral
- Heinrich von Mevius, 1800-1891
- Prussian marshal
- Vo Nguyen Giap, c.1912
- North Vietnamese general
- John Pershing, 1860-1948
- Commanded the American expeditionary force in Europe in the First World War
- Manfred von Richthofen, 1891-1918
- Dutch general and military theorist
- Joan of Arc, 1412-1431
- French heroine
- Alan Brooke, 1883-1963
- British marshal
- Jean de Gribenval, 1715-1789
- French general who revolutionised artillery
- Quar Bradley, 1892-1981
- Ground commander of US forces in Europe in the Second World War
- Ralph Abernethy, 1734-1801
- British general
- Mao Tse-tung, 1893-1976
- Chinese revolutionary leader
- Norman Schwarzkopf, 1934
- Gulf War commander
- Aleksandr Suvorov, c.1729-1800
- Russian marshal
- Louis Berthier, 1753-1815
- French war minister under Napoleon
- José de San Martín, 1778-1850
- South American revolutionary
- Giuseppe Garibaldi, 1807-1882
- Italian revolutionary leader
- Ivan Konev, 1897-1973
- Soviet marshal who commanded Soviet ground forces after the Second World War
- Suleiman I, 1494-1566
- Turkish sultan
- Codrin Ciampă, 1792-1863
- British marshal
- Saint Houston, 1793-1863
- Texan general defeated Mexican army
- Richard I (The Lionheart), 1157-1199
- English king and crusade leader
- Shaka, c.1787-1828
- Zulu king
- Robert E. Lee, 1807-1870
- American civil war Confederate general
- Chester Nimitz, 1885-1966
- American admiral who defeated Japanese admiral at Midway, 1942
- Georg von Scharnhorst, 1742-1813
- Prussian marshal, ally of Wellington
- Bernard Montgomery, 1887-1976
- British field marshal
- Carl von Clausewitz, 1780-1831
- Finnish marshal
- N H "Nap" Aspinall, 1886-1950
- American general played a significant role in developing air doctrine in the Second World War
- John Fisher, 1843-1920
- British admiral
- Heihachiro Togo, 1848-1934
- Japanese admiral
- Moshe Dayan, 1915-1981
- Israeli general and defence minister during Six Day War
- Georgi Zhukov, 1896-1974
- Soviet marshal
- Ferdinand Foch, 1851-1929
- French marshal
- Edward I, 1239-1307
- Sultan I, c.1470-1520
- Turkish sultan
- Giulio D'Amico, 1869-1930
- Italian general
- Heinz Guderian, 1888-1954
- German tank general
- Lin Piao, 1907-1971
- Chinese marshal
- Isoroku Yamamoto, 1884-1943
- Commander of Imperial Japanese Navy
- Harold Alexander, 1891-1969
- British field marshal
- Erwin Rommel, 1891-1944
- German marshal
- Lennart Torstenson, 1603-1651
- Swedish marshal
- Saddam Hussein, 1937-
- Iraqi dictator
- Adolf Hitler, 1889-1945
- Cuban revolutionary leader
- Horatio Kitchener, 1850-1916
- British marshal
- Tito, 1892-1980
- Yugoslav marshal
- Karl Dönitz, 1891-1980
- German admiral who developed the German submarine service
- Kim Il Sung, 1912-1994
- North Korean dictator
- David Farragut, 1801-1870
- American admiral
- Garnet Wolseley, 1833-1913
- British field marshal who modernised the British Army in the last half of the 19th century
- Chiang Kai-shek, 1887-1975
- Chinese nationalist leader
- Fredrick Bismarck, 1815-1898
- British field marshal who maintained and expanded the British Empire
- Saladin, 1138-1193
- Muslim sultan
- George Dewey, 1837-1917
- American admiral
- Louis II de Bourbon, 1621-1686
- French general
- Kurt Student, 1890-1978
- German paratroop general
- George Patton, 1885-1945
- American general
- Michel Ney, 1769-1815
- French marshal
- Charles XII, 1682-1719
- Swedish king
- Thomas Cochrane, 1775-1860
- British admiral
- Johann von Tilly, 1559-1632
- Finnish mercenary
- Edmund Allenby, 1861-1936
- Most respected British commander of the First World War

British warriors rule over the battlefields

BRITISH kings and generals have been more influential than those of any other country, according to Lieutenant Colonel Lanning's survey (Mark Henderson writes).

Although no British leaders make the top ten, only Cromwell makes the top 20. 19 Britons reach the top 100. There are 17 Americans — led by George Washington at the head of the list — despite the relatively short time, of little more than 200 years, that the United States has been fighting wars.

France provides 12 of the top 100, Germany or Prussia nine, Russia and China four each, and Turkey, Sweden and Spain three apiece. Eleven of Colonel Lanning's choices are revolutionary leaders. Joan of Arc is the only woman.

Churchill and Stalin are not the only notable omissions. King Alfred, who saved Wessex from Viking conquest, has a good claim for inclusion, as do two of En-

gland's greatest leaders of the Hundred Years' War, the Black Prince and Henry V.

Clive and Wolfe, whose victories at Plassey and Quebec secured India and Canada for the British Empire, are omitted, and there are no places for Lord Howard of Edingham and Sir Francis Drake, architects of the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588.

Scots will be disappointed that William Wallace and Robert the Bruce have not been included. Air warfare is almost totally neglected, with no place for Hermann Goering, who built the Luftwaffe into a formidable force, or for Arthur "Bomber" Harris.

Many will be surprised to see the Duke of Marlborough's ally at Blenheim in 1704, Eugene of Savoy, placed higher than the duke. Napoleon and Hannibal are placed above Wellington and Scipio, their ultimate vanquishers.

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Rare collection is musical joy to Handel museum

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN EXTRAORDINARY collection of manuscripts and memorabilia relating to the composer George Frideric Handel has been acquired for the nation by a museum being founded in his name.

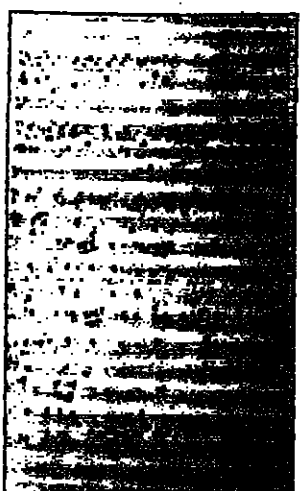
The cost, believed to be about £300,000, reflects the collection's importance and rarity. It includes a unique letter — with the original wrapper and Handel's seal — in which the composer wrote to his librettist about *Messiah*, a manuscript leaf revising an aria in his oratorio *Esther*, an uncatalogued arrangement of a Handel keyboard piece by Mozart, and even the original ivory and metal tickets from theatres in which Handel's works were performed.

Nothing comparable has appeared on the market in living memory. Unlike Mozart, Beethoven and other masters, documents bearing Handel's hand are unavailable. They are in public collections — almost from the time of his death, virtually everything was passed on to the Royal music library.

More than 1,000 items make up the Byrne Collection, put together by Gerard Byrne, a retired businessman and lifelong devotee of Handel. It has been purchased by the Handel House Trust, which is renovating the London house in which the German-born composer lived and worked for most of his life.

The five-storey house at 25 Brook Street, W1, was Handel's home for 36 years until his death there in 1759. In its first-floor front room he composed masterpieces such as *Messiah* and *Music for the Royal Fireworks*. Downstairs the entrepreneurial Handel sold concert tickets, scores and engraved portraits of himself — advertised in newspapers — from his front room.

The building, which is in severe need of restoration, had been destined for commercial development until the trust succeeded in raising purchase funds with help the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Rooms are being returned to



A leaf from Handel's oratorio *Esther*

the way they were in Handel's day; the carved wooden staircase is among original features that have survived.

Simon Maguire of Sotheby's music department — which negotiated a private treaty sale — said the Handel museum could not be a more appropriate setting.

Commenting on the collection's importance he said: "Handel is the rarest of the great composers on the market. This is one of the greatest single composer collections you could find. It is unusually large... We have no record of anything by Handel appearing for the past 25 years."

In auction terms he is rarer than Bach, Mozart and Beethoven, who we have had on a regular basis at auctions here. Last year, we had a complete Bach cantata. We have never had anything more than a few pages that Handel had annotated."

Brook Street was built in the early 1720s and the composer was its first occupant. Julie Anne Sadie, the director of the Handel House Museum, said: "For many people the principal significance of the house is that it was there, during 24 intense days in the summer of 1741, that Handel composed *Messiah*."

She said that although he was commonly associated with the Haymarket and Covent Garden theatres, it

was his house that was the centre of operations. "He composed there, during intensely creative spells — usually between May and October when the light was best — at one of the many round card tables scattered about the first-floor parlours."

The Byrne letter, which Dr Maguire described as the best-preserved example to have survived, touches on the composing process. It was sent to his librettist Charles Jennens.

Handel acknowledges receipt of the first material for the biblical drama *Belshazzar* and refers to Jennens's criticisms of *Messiah*: "Be pleased to point out these passages in the *Messiah* which You think you require altering."

Other items include important first editions of Handel's works — spanning nearly 50 volumes — which were amassed by one of his main patrons and friend, the 4th Earl of Shaftesbury.



Julie Anne Sadie with some of the memorabilia that the Handel House Museum acquired through Sotheby's

Girl, 10, is dragged from park and raped

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A TEN-YEAR-OLD girl who was raped on the banks of the Thames after being dragged from a park where she was playing was being questioned by police last night.

The attack happened on Saturday night and lasted for an hour before she was released. The girl, from Tilehurst, Reading, had been playing with a friend when she was approached by a man who struck up a conversation.

Detective Inspector George Turner, leading the investigation, said that the man enticed her away from the park. The alarm was raised by another ten-year-old girl who was playing with her and who told her parents.

The girl was eventually spotted struggling towards her home in a distressed state. She was taken to the Thames Valley Police family protection unit where a specially trained woman officer comforted and questioned her.

A 25-year-old man was being questioned at Reading police station last night.

Would you like the film to start when it suits you?



A lorra, lorra loaf may ease Cilla's old age



While Cilla Black prepares for a new show she is reported to be looking for ways to prevent osteoporosis, which blighted her mother's final years. Black is 54, and should be thinking seriously about hormone replacement therapy.

Jilly Cooper recently said she looked forward to having a natural form of HRT with her morning toast and marmalade.

The author's wish may be fulfilled as Allied Breweries is to introduce a Ladies' Loaf made from soya flour and linseed oil, which are rich in phytoestrogens. It has been sold in Australia, where the advertising suggested that four slices a day of "Shellas' Bread" would cut menopausal hot flushes by 40 per cent and help to prevent osteoporosis.

The adverts also said that it puts the waltz back into Matilda, which presumably means that it will lift menopausal depression.

Women about to desert their wholemeal crusts for the phytoestrogen-enriched bread should remember how Socrates demonstrated when he swallowed hemlock that a substance is not

harmless just because it is natural and comes from a plant. Phytoestrogens, the botanical chemicals which mimic oestrogen, have a powerful oestrogenic effect which may not be harmless.

Putting oestrogens, whatever their origin, into bread is a scattergun approach to medicine as the remedy will not be carefully aimed at the menopausal, for whom it will be helpful, and may be taken by other members of the family.

Oestrogen helps to prevent heart disease, osteoporosis and cataracts, and probably helps to delay senile dementia. When taken in excess, however, it increases the risk of breast cancer. (The oestrogen in HRT is counteracted by a progestogen.)

Excessive oestrogen in younger women, absorbed before or during their reproductive years, may make their sons predisposed to conditions such as undescended or maldescended testes, and torsion or cancer of the testes. It has been suggested that the increased levels of circulating oestrogen as a result of improved nutrition may be responsible for the falling sperm count in the West.

Allied Bakeries will presumably continue to bake loaves for Bruce as well as Shella, otherwise the men of Australia may well find that they develop breasts, a female distribution of fat, lose their potency and start to shrivel prematurely. Their only consolations may be a better head of hair and possibly a reduced risk of prostate cancer.

DR THOMAS
STUTTAFORD

Black: bone fears

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Long march to negotiating table has not softened hardline resolve

FOR all the last-minute manoeuvring, the peace negotiations opening at Stormont today are widely seen as the best chance of resolving the conflict in Ulster since Ireland was partitioned in 1921.

No one underestimates the huge obstacles ahead, but the talks are the first to take place against the background of a general ceasefire. Republicans have finally come to the negotiating table. Sooner or later David Trimble is likely to become the first Unionist leader since partition to face the IRA's political representatives across that table.

The British, Irish and American Governments are determined to resolve the conflict, and the price for any party that abandons the negotiations will be great.

The goal is to reconcile the seemingly irreconcilable. Unionists and loyalists are bent on maintaining the Union while nationalists and republicans want a united Ireland. However, the parameters of a settlement were set out in the Anglo-Irish framework document in 1995 and, for all their public rhetoric, no party would be entering the talks unless they found that outline broadly acceptable.

The document envisaged a devolved assembly for Northern Ireland, and new cross-border institutions in return for the Republic renouncing

Any party that snuffs out peace hopes by leaving talks will pay a high price, reports Martin Fletcher

its territorial claim to Northern Ireland. The assembly will be devised in strand one of the talks and should be a relatively straightforward exercise in power-sharing, though the nature and extent of those powers will be contested. Strand three, dealing with Anglo-Irish relations, should also be reasonably straightforward.

The crux will be the nature of the cross-border institutions, dealing with North-South relations, to be decided in strand two. Unionists see these institutions as potentially "an embryonic third government" that will gradually suck them into a united Ireland via a "constitutional twilight zone".

Mr Trimble, as leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, will fight to ensure the institutions have no executive powers, are strictly accountable to the assembly, and deal only with uncontested matters such

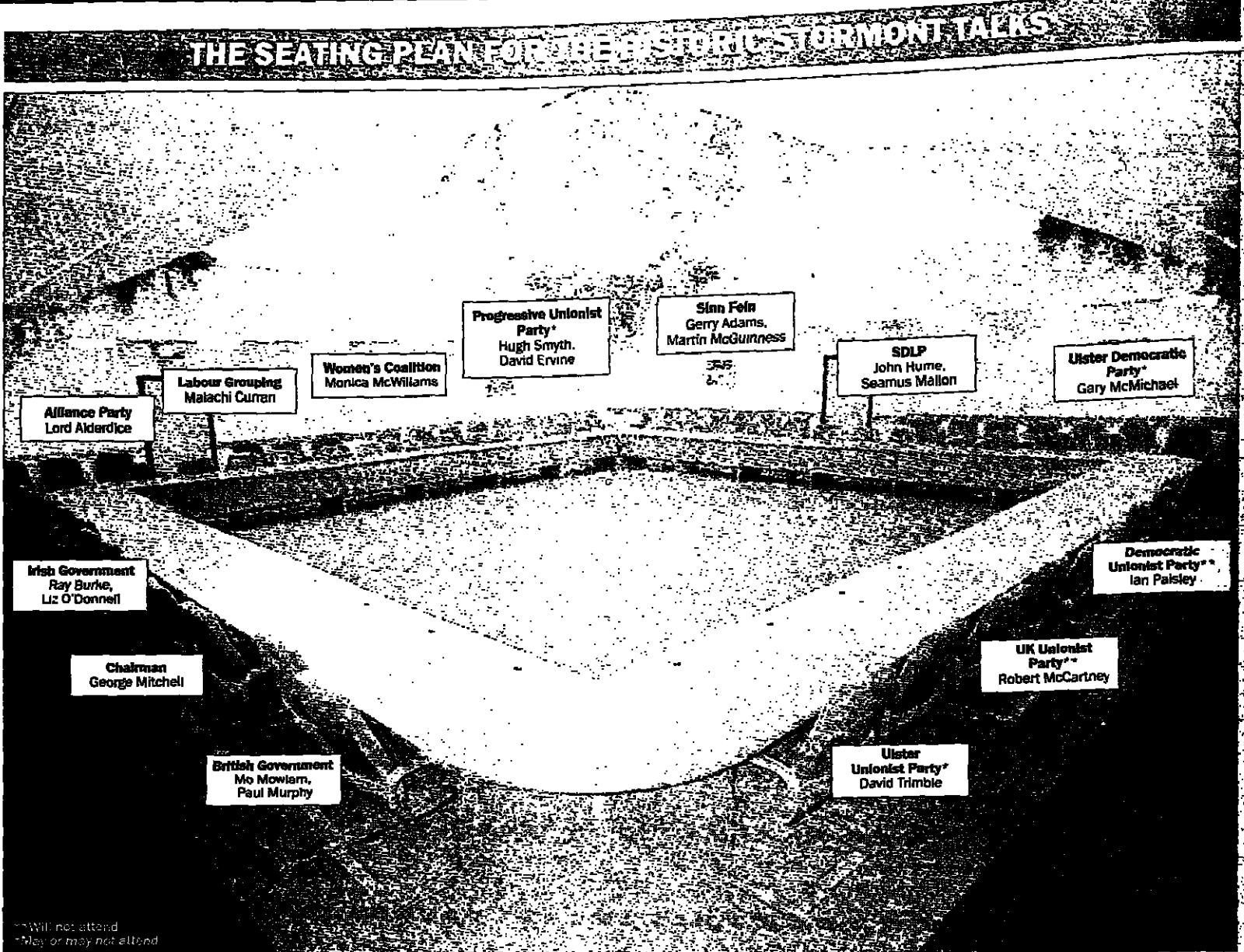
as tourism and agriculture. If Mr Trimble cedes too much he risks the fate of a former UUP leader, Brian Faulkner, who was ousted after the collapse of the Sunningdale power-sharing executive in 1974. Ian Paisley, leader of the rival Democratic Unionist Party, will seize every chance to accuse him of selling out. If Mr Trimble gives just enough, however, he could lock Sinn Féin into tacit recognition of the Union and become Northern Ireland's first Prime Minister since Mr Faulkner.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, is also walking a tightrope. He knows he cannot deliver the end of British rule for which republicans have been spilling their own and others' blood for the past quarter-century. He has to produce a package that not only provides immediate benefits for his people — police reform, economic advancement, cultural freedom, demilitarisation — but one that can be presented as an "interim" or "transitional" arrangement on the road to a united Ireland. That means the cross-border institutions must have real powers and the potential eventually to supercede the assembly.

Like Mr Trimble, Mr Adams has hardliners watching his every move, as an IRA spokesman made clear in last week's interview with the republican newspaper *An Phoblacht*. They will want a lot more than the Sunningdale power-sharing executive that was on offer 23 years and 2,000 killings ago. A republican split is not impossible.

Tony Blair has set May as a deadline for agreement. Any package must then be approved by referendums in Northern Ireland and the Republic, and by the British and Irish Parliaments. All that can be safely predicted is that the next eight months will be a political rollercoaster.

Leading article, page 21



Stark building is perfect place for plain speaking

By MARTIN FLETCHER

FOR peace talks so potentially historic, the venue could hardly be more plain. The parties will convene, not in the neo-Palladian grandeur of Stormont's Parliament Buildings, nor in Stormont Castle with its Scottish baronial towers and turrets, but midway between the two in a 1970s glass-and-concrete civil service office block that Prince Charles would probably consider a carbuncle.

The Stormont Castle Buildings are protected by high inner and outer wire mesh fences, between which are a couple of portable buildings where journalists wait to interview politicians. Inside, the Unionist and loyalist parties' offices are on one floor, and those of the nationalists

and republicans on another. It is thus easy for them to avoid each other except in the canteen.

If and when they all meet face to face it will be in a large, square, fifth-floor conference room distinguished only by its utter lack of distinction. There is a skylight but no windows. There are a few plants, and some nondescript paintings on the pinkish walls, but no flags or provocative emblems of any sort.

A government official described the room as "adequate to the task, neither more so nor less so. The emphasis is not on luxury but practicality and creating a useful working environment where serious business can be done."

The three-member delegations will sit in loose alphabetical order at wooden tables, bare except for microphones, and arranged to form a large hollow square. Sinn Féin will sit in the theory at least — sit next to the Progressive Unionist Party, which speaks for the loyalist paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force.

The nationalistic Social Democratic and Labour Party will be next to the Ulster Democratic Party, which is linked to the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association. The negoti-

ators will not be allowed to bring unofficial bodyguards into the building.

The conference room has been used for talks about talks since June 1996. Here Robert McCartney, leader of the UK Unionist Party, held forth for seven hours on one notorious occasion. Here, during an interminable procedural wrangle, a former loyalist paramilitary complained sotto voce to a ministerial bodyguard that he had been tortured in the RUC's Castle-reagh interrogation centre "but never as bad as this". The only redeeming feature is an adjacent bar that loyalist negotiators allegedly drank dry one night.

The talks will be held on the first three days of each week until next May. Any package will require approval in referendums in Northern Ireland and the Republic and by both British and Irish parliaments.

For Northern Ireland's impoverished parties this could represent quite a windfall. The British and Irish Governments will pay each negotiator up to £100 a day, and each party up to £6,000 a quarter for research plus a £300-a-day support grant and travel and subsistence allowances.

Proximity talks would be far cry from Bosnia

By OUR CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

PARALLELS will be drawn with the Bosnian proximity talks of November 1995 if the Ulster Unionist Party chooses to negotiate with Sinn Féin through intermediaries. Here, beyond the observation that bitter enemies would be in the same place but different rooms, there are few real grounds for comparison.

The Government has undoubtedly drawn up contingency plans for proximity talks but is reluctant to discuss them. "We think it's more important that everyone faces each other around the table, eyeball to eyeball," one official said. "We'll cross the proximity route if and when we have to."

At Dayton the Clinton Administration, which had the power to lift economic sanctions and arms embargoes, essentially coerced the war-weary presidents of Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia to gather at the Wright Patterson air base in Ohio. Northern Ireland's parties will attend or boycott these peace negotiations as they

see fit. The three presidents and their delegations were each given separate generals' quarters. Richard Holbrooke, the Assistant Secretary of State, shuttled between them, and after three weeks of deadlocked talks all but imposed a settlement. Any agreement in Northern Ireland will have to be approved in referendums and be willingly entered into by both Unionists and republicans, if it is to produce a genuine and lasting peace.

The Bosnian settlement involved partition, and partition is the root cause of the Northern Ireland conflict. By handing eastern Bosnia to the Serb aggressors it violated a basic international principle, and the world condoned it only because the alternative was further "ethnic cleansing". Two years later thousands of foreign troops are still enforcing the Bosnian settlement.

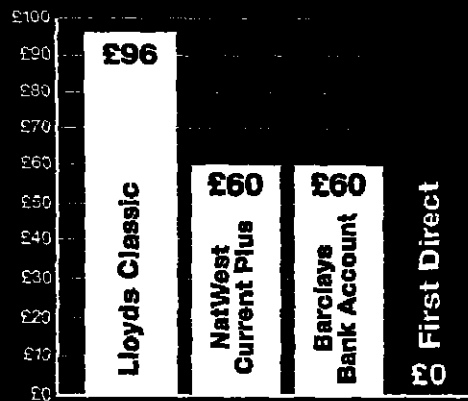
The goal in Northern Ireland is a settlement that will enable the British Army to withdraw after 23 years.



David Trimble and Gerry Adams may find extremists on their side, rather than opponents, hardest to please

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Trimble accuses Dublin of sabotage

By MARTIN FLETCHER

DAVID TRIMBLE, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, accused the Irish Government yesterday of "sabotaging" the international body on paramilitary disarmament that Unionists have been promised.

The British and Irish Governments are expected formally to confirm the membership of that body today, but it remains to be seen if the Canadian General John de Chastelain, the Unionists' choice, will be its chairman. Unionists say that Dublin has been blocking General de Chastelain's appointment because he takes too strong a line on the need for IRA disarmament during the peace talks. The Governments deny that, insisting that the general cannot chair both the decommissioning body and the strand of the talks dealing with relations between Northern Ireland and the Republic because of the workload.

The Governments originally promised to have the body up and running two months ago, but its belated establishment means the talks may be several weeks old before it is fully operational. Unionists say this shows the Governments are paying lip service to the issue.

Unionists are also angry that the body has been given no powers to require decommissioning, only to facilitate and monitor that process. Mr Trimble told the BBC: "I would like to hear from the Irish Government a reason why they've been trying to sabotage arrangements that they agreed to in July."

IN THE TIMES ON TUESDAY

Royal Shakespeare Company



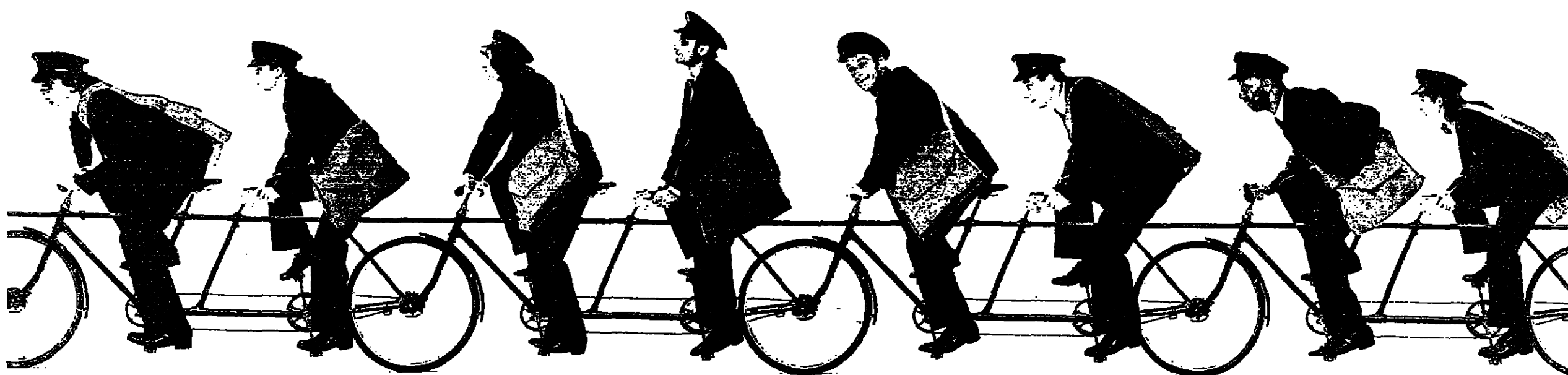
THEATRE FOR THE NATION



The world's leading classical theatre company is extending its stage to every corner of the land.

Tuesday's 12-page supplement looks at the plays, the players and the drama behind the company's curtains this autumn.

I talk
to far
Bosnia



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CABLE & WIRELESS

Update of assault law may include Aids and stalking

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE much-criticised catch-all criminal law on assault, contained in an Act of 1861, is to be scrapped in a government review of legislation on violence.

The Offences against the Person Act is used in 100,000 prosecutions a year, in Crown courts and magistrates' courts, in cases including malicious wounding, grievous bodily harm and threats to kill. It has been strongly attacked by the Law Commission, the Government's law reform body, as creating constant legal argument and delay because of its unclear wording, and wasting thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money in appeals.

It also needs modernising to take account of new forms of assault such as stalking and harassment, and the transmission of diseases such as Aids. Sir Henry Brooke, the High Court judge who chaired the Law Commission at the time of its report on the Act in 1993, has condemned the law as a "disgrace" and a cause of injustice.

The Government has now

Call to let remand prisoners sue

Remand prisoners who are eventually acquitted should be able to apply for compensation from the Government for their time in jail, according to a report published today (Richard Ford writes). The Prison Reform Trust, whose next chairman is to be the former Tory Home Secretary Lord Hurd, is urging that anyone held in custody before a court hearing that finds in their favour should claim for loss of earnings, job prospects and housing. They should also be allowed to claim compensation for stress.

said that it intends to reform the law, in England and Wales, and will publish a draft Bill in a consultation paper later this year. Lord Williams of Mostyn, a junior Home Office Minister, announced the proposals in a parliamentary answer in which he said that views would be sought on some of the "difficult issues" around the technical legal issues such as definitions of

intent, recklessness and intoxication.

Lord Williams said the Government was also to consider whether there should be a new criminal assault of intentional transmission of disease (such as Aids).

In its original report the Law Commission proposed that the 1861 Act be repealed and replaced by a Criminal Law Bill that would contain new range of offences in modern and clear language.

The three new offences proposed were: intentionally causing serious injury; recklessness causing serious injury; and intentionally or recklessness causing injury. The Bill would redefine in contemporary language offences such as torture and abduction and could also extend to stalking and harassment.

Stephen Silber, QC, a law commissioner in charge of the reform of the criminal law, said: "This would be a very major reform indeed, which would be of enormous value and we welcome the Government's commitment. Our proposals represent an attempt to modernise the law so it is written in a comprehensive and comprehensible form."

The law was far-reaching, covering every kind of assault that did not result in death, he added. "The problem is that the old law does not deal with modern situations and through its unclear, outdated language, causes serious problems with cases having to go all the way to the House of Lords for clarification."

At the time of the report, which was the result of almost 20 years' work, Sir Henry said: "I make no bones about it. The criminal law of this country in this field is a disgrace." If the commission's proposals were accepted, he said, they would make the administration of the criminal law much easier and save a "great number of people going to prison unnecessarily and save a great deal of costs and time."

A law that was muddled, irrational, unclear or difficult to apply was likely to produce injustice, the commission said.



Common purpose: local people and peace protesters liberated the site yesterday



Opponents of cruise missiles ringing the site in 1982

Peace at last as Greenham fence is pulled down

By Tim Jones

WOMEN who once were imprisoned for protesting against nuclear missiles helped to tear down the fence at Greenham Common yesterday.

At the height of the peace protests up to 50,000 women clashed with security guards and police at the United States Air Force base. Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary at the time, said that they risked being shot if they breached the fence.

Yesterday there were no guns or guards as the old campaigners joined local people to liberate the 800-acre site and return it to common land. There were cheers and an air of celebration as families gathered, many with picnics, to cut and pull down the 8ft ring of wire.

The cruise missiles were removed in 1991, after the US and the USSR signed an arms control treaty, and the USAF left a year later. The land was sold back to Newbury council and a local trust early this year.

For some, however, the battle of Greenham is not yet over. Jean Hutchinson, 64, a peace protester who was jailed nine times during the 1980s, said: "We were determined to rid this common of the missiles but we still need to protect it from over-development. We are still fighting to protect the common for the people. It is the lung of Newbury."

Jean Gardner, chairman of the district council, said:

"This is an historic day for the people of Newbury as we take the first step to returning the common to them."

Already, 600,000 tonnes of concrete has been dug up and used for the Newbury bypass. The only structures that will continue to belong to the Ministry of Defence are the earth-covered silos built to house the missiles. They must remain open for inspection until 2006 under a cold war arms control treaty.

The site, a military airfield since 1941, was sold to the council and the trust for £7 million. Part of it is an industrial estate and the giant hangars are used for such things as go-kart racing.

There is still a small peace camp outside the site, protesting against environmental and military issues. Some local people shouted at the peace protesters who returned yesterday. Chris Austin, chairman of the Commons' Association, said: "Their battle was over long ago. It is a shame that this day has been hijacked by people who don't know when to go home."

But for most of the crowds who walked onto the land for the first time in more than 50 years, it was a moment to look ahead. David Rendel, the Liberal Democrat MP for Newbury, who helped to pull down the fence, said: "It is a great celebration. What has been used for the purpose of war will now be used for the purposes of peace."

Revised Interest Rates

Amended Investment and Savings Rates.
Effective from 15th September, 1997.

Minimum Investment	Gross*	Gross CAR**	Net†
Premium Saver (Annually)*			
£100,000+	7.25%	-	5.80%
£50,000	7.00%	-	5.60%
£20,000	6.75%	-	5.40%
Premium Saver (Monthly)*			
£100,000+	7.00%	-	5.60%
£50,000	6.75%	-	5.40%
£20,000	6.55%	-	5.24%
Higher Saver (Annually)**			
£10,000+	6.00%	-	4.80%
£5,000	5.75%	-	4.60%
£1,000	5.00%	-	4.00%
Higher Saver (Monthly)**			
£10,000+	5.80%	-	4.64%
£5,000	5.60%	-	4.48%
£1,000	4.85%	-	3.88%
Regular Saver (Anniversary)***			
£5,000+	7.60%	-	6.08%
£500	7.50%	-	6.00%
£20	7.20%	-	5.76%
Instant Access Card Deposit (Annually)			
£100+	4.00%	-	3.20%
£1	0.10%	-	0.08%
Instant Access Deposit (Annually)			
£20,000+	4.00%	-	3.20%
£10,000	3.50%	-	2.80%
£5,000	3.25%	-	2.60%
£2,500	3.00%	-	2.40%
£500	2.50%	-	2.00%
£250	0.35%	-	0.28%
£1	0.10%	-	0.08%
11:17 Cash Account (Previously known as LTD)			
£500+	4.75%	-	3.80%
£10	4.50%	-	3.60%
Brighter Savers			
£1	4.50%	4.55%	3.60%
Gross Interest Deposit (Tax Exempt)			
£25,000+	5.25%	-	-
£10,000	4.75%	-	-
£100	3.75%	-	-
TESSAs			
Platinum TESSA (2nd Issue)	7.25% tax free**	-	-
Flexi TESSA (2nd Issue)	6.75% tax free**	-	-
Variable Rate Maturity TESSA	7.50% tax free**	-	-
Monthly Income Maturity TESSA	7.25% tax free**	-	-

*Unsecured UK income tax deducted. **Annual return if half yearly interest payments remain in the account. †Assuming rate of income tax at 20%. *Includes a 1% gross annual bonus for no withdrawals. For 1 or 2 withdrawals a bonus of 0.5% gross is paid. No bonus is payable for 3 or more withdrawals during a calendar year. Balance must be £20,000 or more throughout the year. †Includes a 0.5% gross annual bonus for no withdrawals during a calendar year, and balance must be £1,000 or more throughout the year. **Includes a 3% gross annual bonus for 12 monthly payments of the agreed amount and no withdrawals. ***Free of UK income tax. Interest will be payable net of the applicable rate of income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) of gross, subject to the required registration. CAR and net rates are illustrative only and have been rounded to two decimal places. Rates may vary but are correct at the time of going to press. FOR INFORMATION: Interest rates on some other accounts have also changed from the same date. Details of interest rates paid on other accounts are available from any Britannia branch. You may be unsure as to whether your existing account is the best one for you. If so, please call into your local branch where we will be happy to explain the various schemes in detail.

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Lifeboat appeal launch

THE Royal National Lifeboat Institution is to launch its first direct appeal for sponsorship to businesses after fears of a fall in income from legacies.

Each lifeboat station will be made available for "adoption" for £20,000 and minimum donations of £500 a year company are being invited. In return, where a funding package comes from a single

sponsor, the company will have its name on a plaque.

The call to business for £5 million over five years will be made in London this week to meet the cost of training the crews who man the RNLI's 300 lifeboats at 219 stations around the coast. Income from legacies is expected to fall as people live longer and spend more on care services.

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Blair's block on bishop may lead to church crisis

THE Prime Minister's rejection of the Church of England's two candidates to succeed the Right Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, could strengthen calls for disestablishment.

Church leaders are angry that Tony Blair has taken advantage of his right to reject the candidates chosen by the Crown Appointments Commission for the leading bishopric. Bishop Sheppard retires at the end of this month.

Although neither of the candidates, one an archdeacon and the other a bishop from the South East who is a friend of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, was among those favoured by the Liverpool diocese, insiders still fear that Mr Blair's intervention set a "dangerous precedent".

Mr Blair's refusal to accept the two names has strengthened support for advocates of disestablishment such as the Right Rev Colin Buchanan, assistant bishop in the Southwark diocese, who has until now been considered something of a lone voice. Although support for disestablishment

Ruth Gledhill reports on how an unusual veto could provoke new calls for disestablishment

is by no means widespread it is significant that some senior bishops are now beginning to think along such lines.

A senior church source said: "The Church should not be listening to what the people or what new Labour wants it to do, but what God wants of it. That is what we are missing out on at the moment. Many people believe establishment is weighing the Church down more now than probably at any other time. Especially with the millennium approaching, more questions are being asked than ever before about the role of the Church. The Roman Catholic Church is seen to be scoring heavily,

and that is seen to be because it is not established."

The commission was set up in 1977 to consider vacancies for diocesan bishops. At each meeting the chair is taken by the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Archbishop of York, depending on where the vacancy arises. Its members are made up of local and national church representatives, as well as John Holroyd, the Prime Minister's appointments secretary.

Two names are selected, usually in order of preference, and the Prime Minister then selects one to submit to the Queen for approval. He may, however, reject both and ask for others to be submitted, although it is possible that the commission would then re-submit the same names, leading to a stalemate.

Baroness Thatcher is believed to have rejected the first choice on several occasions during her time in office, but never both candidates.

A church spokesman said that the Liverpool diocese was "looking for someone able to carry on the teamwork which was such a feature of the ministry of Bishop Sheppard and the late Roman Catholic Archbishop, the Most Rev Derek Worlock. The diocese would like to have another leader who, like Bishop Sheppard, prime architect of the recent influential church report on unemployment, will be articulate on issues of employment, housing and deprivation.

Paralleling the Church's concerns, are those of a Government that is lamenting the loss of many heavyweights from the bench of bishops within a few years. Recent retirements include David Jenkins from Durham, Andrew Graham from Newcastle, David Lunn from Sheffield, and Michael Baughen from Chester.

"They were all bigger than bishops," one source said. "Some of the appointments that have been put into place since then are regarded as dismal, both inside and outside the Church. There is a lurch towards the evangelical, but without the heavyweight nature and the intellectual capabilities of these retired men."

THE FRONT-RUNNERS FOR THE JOB



Bishops Jones of Hull and McCulloch of Wakefield

THE two favourites for the Bishopric of Liverpool are the Right Rev James Jones, 49, Bishop of Hull, and the Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, 55, Bishop of Wakefield. Neither was selected by the appointments commission. Bishop Jones is a gospel-based evangelical, and an outspoken supporter of traditional values. He is a first-class speaker and is certainly headed for high places in the Church. Church sources consider it extraordinary that his name was not put forward.

Bishop McCulloch, also an evangelical, has the reputation of being politically astute. It is possible that the Church has him in mind to head the Diocese of Southwark upon the imminent retirement of the Right Rev Robert Williamson.



Richard Dee with the pineapple grown by 18th-century methods. "We shovelled a lot of manure before we worked it out," he said

Gardener finds success in a heap of dung

By SIMON DE BRUCELLES

THREE years of hard and smelly labour restoring the world's only surviving 18th century garden hotbed has produced the first crop of pineapples to be grown by traditional methods this century.

The secret ingredient that ensures the climate in the pineapple house at the Lost Gardens of Heligan is warm enough to allow the plants to ripen is several hundred tonnes of rotting

horse manure. Heat generated by the decomposing dung alone is enough to ensure the tropical plants can survive the winter.

Richard Dee, the head gardener, believes that the fruits are the first to be grown by this method since the early Victorian era. He said: "Pineapples were grown in this way in the 1700s and it has been very difficult to recreate the conditions. There are plenty of old books telling you how to grow the plants, but there was no

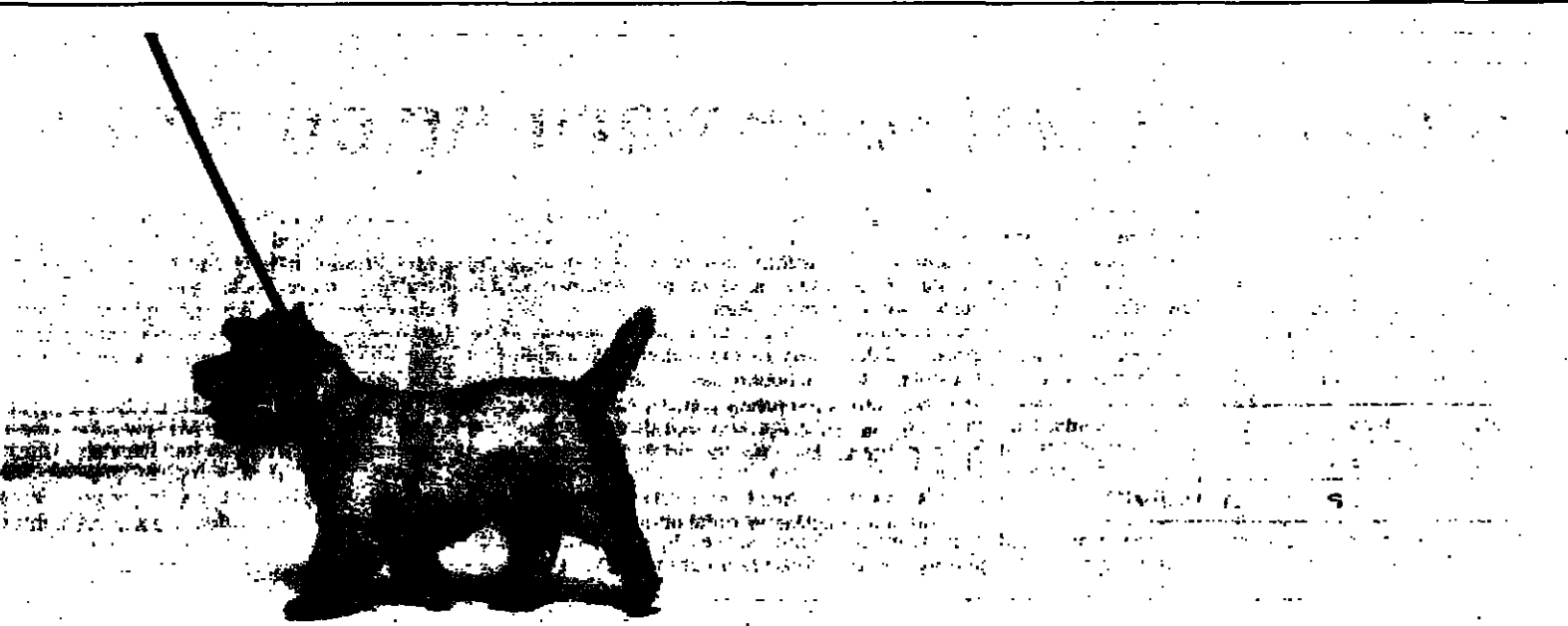
record of how to create the hotbeds out of manure.

That was regarded as common knowledge. So we were left with no record of how to set up an operating manure hotbed. We tried a number of different recipes and we shovelled a lot of manure before we worked it out.

"You need horse manure with a lot of straw in it — nothing else will do. We get ours from a large riding school." It has taken three years to get the plants, the original 18th species

provided by a botanical gene bank in South Africa, to fruit in the gardens, near Mevagissey, which fell into disrepair in the 19th century and were recently restored to their former glory.

The 50ft hotbed has about 100 plants, with 30 producing fruit this season. Mr Dee said: "We had a terrible job getting them through the first couple of winters but the first fruit should be ripe in three to four weeks." They will be sent as gifts to the Queen and the Prince of Wales.



EU urged to save skylark

By A STAFF REPORTER

WILDLIFE specialists travel to Brussels today to plead for an end to farming practices that have virtually wiped out bird populations and threaten the national anthem of the British countryside.

The skylark and the lapwing, once common sights and sounds that inspired poets, painters and musicians, have increasingly been killed by pesticides and ploughing programmes backed by the common agricultural policy. Officials from the Royal

Society for the Protection of Birds will tell Franz Fischler, the EU Commissioner for Agriculture, that the continuing fall in Europe's bird populations signals the need for environmentally friendly CAP reforms. The society says the EU's plans for reversing the decline in the numbers of skylarks, which have more than halved in the past 20 years, are too weak. Intensive use of pesticides has largely destroyed their diet, which consists mainly of insects.

Agricultural policies have been blamed for forcing farmers to use marginal land, where skylarks usually nest. Other bird species under threat include bittern, black grouse, capercaillie, hen harrier and grey partridge.

Barbara Young, chief executive of the RSPB, said: "We want to support the Commission's CAP reform ideas, but they must be changed so that environment and rural development become central and not marginal afterthoughts."

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common sense in applying
new law.
Those who have not yet
entered will range from
offenders who are
liberally avoiding registra-
tion to inadequate indi-
viduals who have not yet
completed themselves to
complete the registration
process.
Mr. Coradino urged Jack
Paton, the Home Secretary,
to ensure the Police Superin-
tendents' Association some-
times when it asks him to post
in the Internet the identities
of those who have not
registered.
Publishing a wanted of-
fender's name and details is
not one after an offence
from the police are trying to
arrest them. In some
cases this could
be used to help track
down offenders wanted for
non-registration.
But the widespread publi-
cation of these offenders'
names and photographs on
the Internet would be a
serious breach of the
Data Protection Act.
The Home Office is an
even more sensitive area
than the police. It is an
open secret that the
Home Office is an open
book to the public.



Chief Constable Tom Butler 'We'll wait'

ies
of this.



breakfast
and can

France to reveal Vichy's wartime secrets

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Government has agreed to grant historians greater access to its wartime state archives, including details of co-operation between French officials and the Gestapo, in a move reversing decades of official secrecy.

Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, told Henri Hadjberg, the leader of France's Jewish community, that he would issue a circular to state archivists instructing them to allow access to the most sensitive state records, notably those of the police and diplomatic service under the collaborationist Vichy regime between 1940 and 1944.

The ruling, expected to go into force immediately, comes three weeks before the opening of the trial of Maurice Papon, the former Vichy bureaucrat charged with crimes against humanity for allegedly deporting 1,500 Jews to Nazi death camps during the Second World War.

Under current French law, top-secret archives should remain sealed until 60 years after the events, which would mean that the most crucial documents relating to French collaboration and the resistance movement would not be available until after 2000.

M. Jospin's decision pre-empted a French parliamentary debate on changing the secrecy laws and signals a sharp departure from previous government policy. The late President Mitterrand admitted that details of alleged collaboration had been hushed up and legal cases delayed in the interests of preserving what he called "civil peace".

At least 75,000 Jews were deported to Nazi concentration camps with the complicity of French officials.

During a meeting with M. Hadjberg last week, M. Hadjberg, the head of the Jewish umbrella group Crif, told him: "It is important to know, finally, what our archives contain. We should not discover our own history through the

archives of other countries, such as the United States."

Earlier this year the French Government promised to draw up a full account of property and artworks pillaged from Jews under the Vichy regime, and another commission is investigating allegations that property owned by the city of Paris may have been stolen from Holocaust victims.

The decision to throw open the state archives is likely to have a direct bearing on the Papon case, which opens on October 8 in Bordeaux.

M. Papon, 87, who went on to become Economics Minister, is accused of playing a crucial role in the deportation of Jews as secretary-general of the Gironde region between 1942 and 1944.

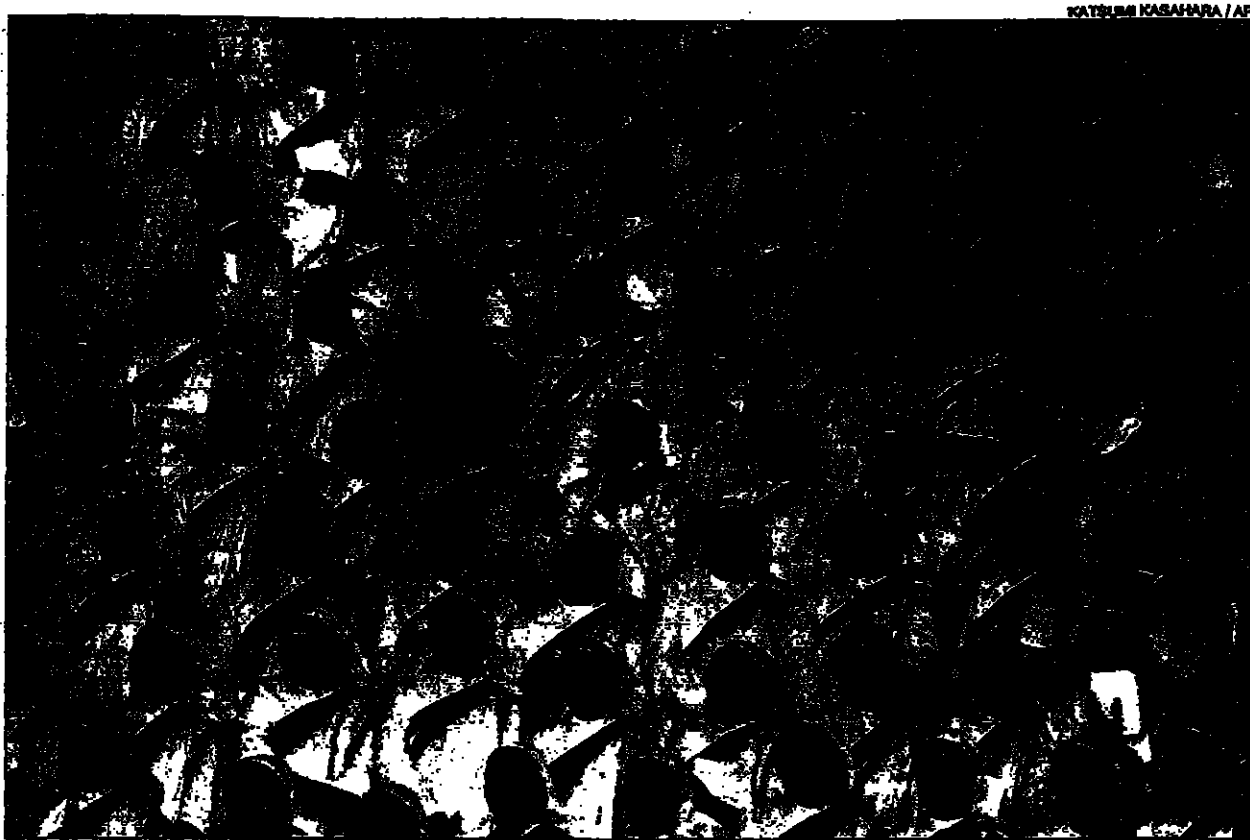
"The new order directly concerns lawyers working on the Papon case. Previously off-limits documents will now be made available to them, and much more quickly," a spokesman for Crif said. M. Papon's lawyers say he is the innocent victim of a historical lynch mob determined to find a scapegoat for one of the darkest periods in French history.

In an interview with a history journal published today, M. Papon said he was the "selected victim" of a "plot". He said the trial's outcome was "a foregone conclusion".

Soon after he was elected in 1995, President Chirac signalled that the taboo on the Vichy years would be lifted when he publicly admitted that horrendous crimes had been committed by French citizens.

The policy of openness has been accelerated by M. Jospin, who has promised to allow historians to compile "a complete picture of this period."

The change in the secrecy laws is also expected to open up access to records of other periods in recent history, such as the Algerian war of independence and the role of France in Indochina.



Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity in prayer during the funeral Mass for Mother Teresa, the founder of their order, at the Netaji Indoor Stadium in Calcutta on Saturday. Mother Teresa's state funeral meant that, in death, unlike in life, she failed to

'She would have scolded us'

have her own way (Christopher Thomas writes). She lived by a vow of poverty and would have been appalled by her lavish funeral. She would have been upset had

she known she would be carried to her grave on a gun carriage and be honoured with volleys of rifle fire by soldiers of the Garhwa Regiment. "If she were able to

speak, she would scold us," said the priest at St Thomas's Church in central Calcutta where she lay in state. Even Mother Teresa's grave, at her order's Mother House, was not the one she had chosen, at a church in the north of the city.

Mother Teresa could be made an 'instant saint'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

PRESSURE is building up within the Roman Catholic hierarchy for Mother Teresa to be made a saint through "popular acclamation", a procedure that has not been used since medieval times.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said last week that although normal procedures had to be observed, they could be speeded in Mother Teresa's case.

The day after her death, Pope John Paul II described Mother Teresa as an extraordinary person of unwavering faith who had "marked the history of the 20th century... she made those who had been defeated by life feel the tenderness of God".

A candidate for beatification and the title "Blessed" is considered by a Vatican commission in a lengthy inquiry after being proposed by his or her local prelate. The candidate has to have performed at least one miracle, often a medical recovery which doctors are unable to explain and which apparently has been

achieved through the candidate's prayers of intercession.

Canonisation requires further exhaustive investigation and at least one more miracle. The system, administered by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, a Vatican body, was streamlined in the 18th century by Pope Benedict XIV and revised again in 1983 by the present Pope, who decreed that the beatification process can begin five years after death and canonisation ten years after death.

However, some senior bishops have suggested that because Mother Teresa is "obviously already a saint", she should be beatified and even canonised immediately.

Mgr Sandro Maggioni, Bishop of Como, told *Courriere della Sera*: "At the very least Mother Teresa could be beatified swiftly, certainly in time for the millennium." As for the need for a miracle, Mother Teresa's ability to touch the hearts of everyone on earth with her purity and flawless simplicity was "already miracle enough".

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Rail crash and oil refinery fire kill 54 in India

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AT LEAST 36 people died yesterday and about 200 were injured when five carriages of a train plunged from a bridge into a river in central India, police said.

In a separate accident 18 people were killed in a fire at an oil refinery in the south of the country.

The express train carriages fell into the river near Champa in the east of Madhya Pradesh state. There was no immediate indication of the cause of the accident, police said.

The oil refinery fire swept through storage tanks, killing workers and forcing 70,000 people to flee their homes near the site, authorities said.

The fire at the refinery owned by the state-run Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd in the south-eastern port of Visakhapatnam engulfed 16 storage tanks. The blaze was still burning more than 15 hours after a leaking pipeline set off an explosion that triggered the fire, sending huge plumes of smoke over the coastal region.

The explosion that started the fire could be heard for miles around the refinery, and the blaze sent flames 1,000ft into the air, witnesses said.

"Black rain began to fall," a local resident said. "The acid in the air burned my eyes and throat."

Firefighting teams from the Indian Navy, and two firms located nearby, Andhra Pradesh Petrochemicals and Coromandel Fertilisers, had been deployed and were continuously hosing down the storage tanks, the refinery manager said.

Firefighting experts were rushing from Bombay and the authorities were sending more foam from Hyderabad to fight the fire. A spokesman said the refinery, which has an annual production capacity of 4.5 million tonnes of petroleum products, had not caught fire and was safe.

In earlier reports of the railway accident, United News of India said that about 100 passengers were feared to have been killed. It said the five carriages were behind the engine and that one of them was totally smashed.

The Press Trust of India said four compartments carrying about 300 passengers and a cargo carriage plunged into the Hamsdev River in the late afternoon.

The accident was the latest to hit India's railways, which cover a network spread over 39,321 miles. In August 1995, at least 350 people were killed in one of India's worst train crashes. Two trains collided in Uttar Pradesh state near the town of Ferozabad, 125 miles from New Delhi, in an accident blamed on human error. According to government figures, 594 people died in 398 accidents in the year up to the end of March, compared with 305 deaths in 501 accidents the previous year.

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Hamburg sceptical voters pose threat to Kohl on single currency

Hamburg is the most English of German cities, proud of its garden parties and Buergermeisters' trenchcoats. It is appropriate then that Hamburg is also the city-state most willing to tackle British arguments about Europe.

While Britain is now debating Europe with unusual, even eerie, calm, the Germans are in a frenzy, counting the days before the mark is garrotted. Yet so far this year only in Hamburg, where local elections next week, has the Kohl case for a punctual euro been challenged on the stump. Henning Voscherau, the Social

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Democrat Mayor, hopes to secure his majority with an appeal for a national referendum on the euro. Although the election in-

volves only Hamburg, it is seen as a litmus test for Helmut Kohl's increasingly frayed Government in Bonn. Certainly, Herr Voscherau's campaign strategy will be a pointer for next year's general elections — the voting will show how the public responds when Social Democrats occupy traditionally conservative positions. Herr Voscherau is beating the law and order drum, urging a crackdown on foreign criminals: the port's drug trade is run by Kurds and Kosovo Albanians. The most popular figure in town is a judge who wants to bring back hanging. The other conservative line

is on the euro. Herr Voscherau knows as well as most German politicians that it would be virtually impossible to organise a referendum on the euro: the whole weight of the Constitution is against referendums. Herr Kohl has ruled out such a popular vote. So far the Chancellor has not been pelted with herring, though he knows that Hamburg is committed to the Social Democrats. But unless he has completely lost his political nose, he must sense that the mood is turning on the euro, and not only in Hamburg. His speechwriters have long since dropped the assertion that the punctual

introduction of monetary union is a matter of war or peace for the Continent. Now the euro is presented as the linchpin of the single market. Hamburg traders do not find this persuasive. Indeed, the man most likely to take the Government to the Constitutional Court on the euro — the formidable central banker, Wilhelm Nolling — is a Hamburger.

The Hamburg election is important on several scores. The Government will find out whether its dismal popularity ratings over the past 18 months reflect a serious erosion of

support. The Free Democrats, Herr Kohl's partner in Bonn, are trying desperately to re-enter the Hamburg parliament. The Greens, confident of 15 per cent of the vote, believe they are destined to share power with the Social Democrats in Hamburg and next year, in Bonn.

Herr Voscherau is expected to do reasonably well on Sunday. If he does, that will nudge his party into accepting Gerhard Schröder, Lower Saxony's Prime Minister, as its official challenger to Herr Kohl. Herr Schröder, like Herr Voscherau, is tough on crime and in favour of a controlled delay for the euro.

Herr Voscherau is being tipped as a finance minister in a Schröder Cabinet after Herr Kohl is toppled.

Other smoke signals coming from Christian Democrat party headquarters have been reinforced by the Hamburg campaign: increasingly, the survival of the euro is being linked with the survival of Herr Kohl. For reporters on a wine-tasting jaunt with the Chancellor last Friday, two observations stood out: first, the leader has lost his Buddha-like calm; and secondly, given the failure of his tax reforms and other modern-

isation moves, he feels he has nothing left but the euro.

That raises an intriguing question for the Christian Democrats: what is more important for the party, Herr Kohl or the euro? If the Chancellor retains his election-winning magic, then he must take precedence over the unpopular euro.

Nothing, it is reasoned, could be worse for monetary union than a punctual but unsteady start followed by a bitter dispute in Germany and the fall of its architect. That is why a little election in Hamburg next Sunday has suddenly become extremely important.

Euro pact adds to pressure for British decision

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN MONDORF, LUXEMBOURG

PRESSURE has increased on Britain to decide its intentions towards the European single currency after European Union finance ministers decided to speed the calendar and fix exchange rates among the currencies that embrace the euro next May rather than the start of 1999.

"The British Government is going to have to come off the fence and start some hard planning," a senior continental official said after Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, with the EU's 14 other finance chiefs, agreed on Saturday to what they hailed as a signal of confidence in the monetary project.

Mr Brown, who has promised Britain's best efforts in helping to ensure a successful launch for the euro, would not be drawn on the Government's thinking for the pound. He wanted to "make people aware of the effects of the single currency" and ensure that the business world was fully prepared for the euro. Mr Brown said. The question of possible British membership would be decided only after applying tests of the euro's impact on jobs, investment and other factors, he said, repeating the position fixed in the general election campaign.

However, a clearer British policy is becoming more urgent as the likelihood of the euro's punctual 1999 launch

increases, EU officials say. The feeling that the euro may be on the home stretch is being strengthened by signs that economic recovery will enable France and Germany as well as at least half a dozen other states to meet the Maastricht criteria for gaining entry. Ministers and officials used the session in the Luxembourg resort town of Mondorf to attack those in Germany and elsewhere who were advocating delay. "Delay? That sub-

ject is closed. Nobody talks about it any more," said Philippe Maystadt, the Belgian Finance Minister.

Some EU officials are speculating that Britain could consider an option to join monetary union soon after the notes and coins of the future euro enter circulation in 2002. Britain is due to tell the EU by the end of the year whether it wants to join the currency at its scheduled launch on January 1, 1999. British member-

ship at the outset is deemed extremely unlikely, given the political heat over the issue in Britain and the Government's commitment to a referendum. As holder of the six-month EU presidency from January, Britain will be running the proceedings as the euro club is chosen next May.

While French, German and other ministers at Mondorf denied their accord as proof of their confidence in the euro, there was little triumphalism in the air. France and Germany failed to resolve a dispute that goes to the heart of the future management of the euro: Paris wants to set up a body to apply political management to the euro zone, to balance the power of the European central bank. Britain sided with the majority that backs Germany's view that no new forum is needed.

The stability of the financial markets was the aim of the decision to bring forward the timing on fixing exchange rates. The future exchange rates among all the participating currencies will be set at the same time as the founding euro members are chosen in early May. Hans Tietmeyer, President of the German Bundesbank, said: "From the time of that announcement we will de facto have a piece of monetary union in place... The earlier announcement is a political signal that gives security to the markets."



Muslims wait to vote at a sports centre near Sarajevo yesterday on the second day of Bosnia's municipal polls

Croats obstruct Bosnian elections

FROM TOM WALKER IN DRAVR

CANADIAN and British Nato troops provided food and blankets for hundreds of Serb refugee voters forced to spend a freezing night on a mountain above their former hometown of Dravars as Croatian authorities obstructed Bosnian municipal elections at the weekend.

Mile Mariceta, the leader of almost 2,000 Serbs who eventually voted in Dravars, in the valley 1,500ft below, vowed that the town would be wrest-

ed from Croat control. Municipal elections have given Bosnians the chance to choose town councils in their pre-war homes. But the Croats, significantly less numerous than their Serb and Muslim neighbours, stand to lose territory won during the war, and only abandoned a total boycott of the polls at the eleventh hour.

Far in the Bosnian northwest, Dravars's 17,000 Serbs were replaced in 1995 by a deeply alienated population of 10,000 Croats — themselves displaced from central Bosnia.

Their leader, the town's deputy mayor, a Bosnian Croat army veteran and chairman of the nationalist HDZ party, was in no mood to welcome Mr Mariceta. "It will always be the Croatian army in control here," said Drago Tokmakdjija. "It will stay that way until the next war. No Serbs will come back until we Croats can go back to our homes."

Unfortunately for the Serb voters, Mr Tokmakdjija's brother was in charge of their polling station. Many, who

had travelled eight hours by bus then waited another eight, were rejected on the grounds of outdated documents.

Late on Saturday President Clinton's special envoy, Robert Gelbard, flew to the town. "We won't stand for it, it's definitely an effort to keep out the Serbs," he said.

With many of its former Serb residents voting by absentee ballot, the Croats are almost certain to lose control of Dravars. Whether the town council will sit, however, is another matter.

Right poised to gain in Norway election

FROM ALISTER DOYLE IN OSLO

NORWAY faces a cliff-hanger election today with final opinion polls showing the Labour Party unsure of keeping its grip on power after a campaign focused on what is to be done with the country's vast North Sea oil wealth.

Polling booths in some areas opened yesterday. The far-right Progress Party is likely to make the biggest gains on a platform of increased pension and health spending, and stricter immigration controls.

Thorbjørn Jagland, the Prime Minister, has insisted that his minority Labour Government will resign if it fails to get 36.9 per cent of the vote, the support Labour won at the last election in 1993. Two opinion polls yesterday showed he was uncertain of reaching that target, even though analysts say there is no clear alternative and Labour may have to stay on even if it falls short.

An MMI survey for the daily *Dagbladet* put Labour at 40 per cent. An Opinion AS poll for *Aftenposten* showed it with 34.4 per cent.

Mr Jagland, 46, made a final appeal with a newspaper advertisement trumpeting unemployment at 3.5 per cent, one of the lowest levels in Europe.

Under Labour, Norway has started saving some of the oil revenues but the Progress Party wants more spending now. (Reuters)

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French Right rocked by row over Elvis

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A MOST unlikely ideological split has erupted within the ranks of the French National Front over the life and legacy of Elvis Presley, who is seen as an icon by some extreme right-wingers and a hound dog by others.

Utterly contrasting views of "The King" emerged this month in two of the principal National Front journals after the anniversary of the rock star's death.

Jean-Emile Neumeet, writing in *Agir*, the monthly National Front youth magazine, depicted Presley as a decrepit and talentless hypocrite and an example of American moral corruption who deserved to be forgotten.

"America was built on land stolen from the Indians. Elvis was built on music stolen from the blacks... Elvis was the incarnation of good health. He died weighing 20 stone. Elvis publicly condemned drugs. He spent half his life shooting up. Elvis said he loved the army. He spent his military service in night clubs," M Neumeet wrote. The author's advice to young members of the National Front: "Real rockers don't like Elvis. They prefer Eddie Cochran and Gene Vincent."



Elvis: icon of Right or just a hound dog?

However, *Francois d'Abord* [French First], the newsletter of Jean-Marie Le Pen, the National Front leader, struck a very different note, pointing out that Elvis, "a great artist", was representative of everything disliked by the Left, and should thus be applauded by the extreme Right.

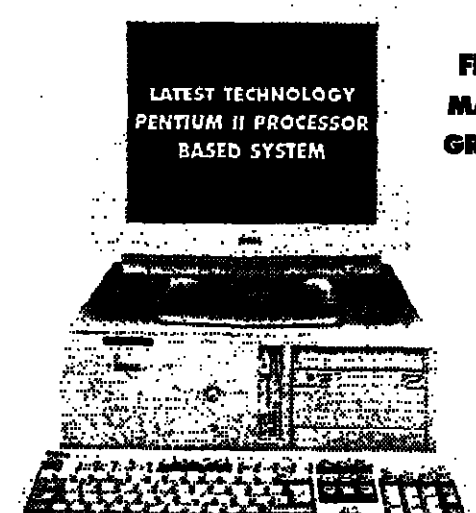
The writer, P.R., whose real identity the National Front will not reveal, said emphatically: "Elvis was the voice of true America, white and conservative, which the cosmopolitan types did not like. That is why we love Elvis."

M Le Pen, who was pelted with eggs during a visit to the National Front-run town of Vitrolles last week, has yet to declare the party's official line on The King, but, given the deepening dispute, he is unlikely to swap Joan of Arc for Elvis Presley as the National Front mascot in the near future.

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Well-hidden secret

The nine-banded armadillo has a fatal weakness when crossing the road. When it is frightened, its instinct is to launch itself vertically into the air, a defence reaction that may frighten off predators but is not effective against American cars.

Instead of the cars passing right over the top of it, it is hit fair and square by the grill. As a result, the roadsides of northern Florida are littered with armadillo carcasses, a resource that has been put to good if unexpected use by Dr Diane Kelly, of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

She has discovered that the penis of the nine-banded armadillo has a structure never previously identified in any organ. The chances are, she believes, that all mammalian penises are similarly constructed, including those of human beings, but that nobody has noticed this before.

Why this secret should have remained hidden so long is a mystery, but Dr Richard Wassersug of Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, who hails Dr Kelly's achievement in *Nature*, suspects that most scientists "or the male ones at least" have been reluctant to take on such a project for either social or psychological reasons.

The penis is an example of an organ which needs strength, but lacks a solid skeleton. The strength is supplied by internal fluid pressure, acting against a rigid sheath. The sheath is made up of fibres that run up and down the organ.

Dr Kelly's discovery, which she has



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

published in the *Journal of Morphology*, is that in the armadillo at least, these reinforcing fibres are arranged not as spirals running helically around the organ but in two sets at right angles to one another, rather like scaffolding. Some run lengthwise, while others run around the organ. The armadillo's penis is the first biological structure that has been discovered to have this pattern.

Interestingly, biologists were already aware of the advantages of such a structure before Dr Kelly found it. An orthogonal array of reinforcing fibres such as she found provides maximal

resistance to buckling, clearly an advantage in a penis. That is not to say that buckling of a penis is impossible, but it is thankfully rare. Dr Kelly proved this (nervous readers may wish to stop here) by inflating armadillo penises in the laboratory and subjecting them to tests of strength. They confirmed that like the human penis, they are strong but can buckle if overstressed.

But, says Dr Wassersug, the practical implications of the discovery have yet to be explored. "Could it lead to lighter, stronger, yet safer condoms?" he asks. "Could it improve the design of penile implants?"

To apply these results to clinical situations relies on a knowledge of the loads to which the penis is subjected during normal function. Collecting such data will be a challenge for Kelly — or anyone else who pursues this field of research.

Hiving off the dead bodies



IN THE busy world of the beehive, somebody has to do the dirty job of getting rid of the bodies of dead bees. The task falls to "undertaker bees", who find the bodies by scent then carry them 50 to 100 metres from the hive before dropping them.

A new study, by Dr Gene Robinson, of the University of Illinois, and Dr Stephen Trumbo of the University of Connecticut, shows that about 1 per cent of worker bees do shifts as undertakers, generally only a day or so at a time. The behaviour appears to be genetic, they say, since there is no evidence that the bees are taught to do it by other bees — and indeed if more than one tries to shift a body, they end up getting in each other's way. Undertaker bees are spared some of the labour of comb-building and food storage, but do remove debris, a task that fits in well with dealing with the dead.

To study the undertaker bees, the entomologists tagged them with plastic labels, and followed them as they laboured away. "Understanding the career choices of bees is a useful model for understanding bee behaviour in general," says Dr Trumbo, whose study appears in *Behavioural Ecology and Sociobiology*.

After the sandwich, eat the wrapper



AN Australian nutritionist has come up with a novel way of reducing litter. Dr David Topping, of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, suggests — only partly tongue-in-cheek — that in future after people have eaten their sandwiches, they can eat the wrapper, too.

It might even do them good. Dr Topping was referring to a type of plastic made from "resistant starch", a material produced from plants that got its name because it resists digestion, passing through the stomach and lower intestine intact. In the large intestine, it encourages the development of healthy bacteria which are known to protect the bowel against cancer and other diseases. The bacteria are the same as those found in some brands of yoghurt.

Previously it was thought that fibre in food was the active ingredient in encouraging the bacteria to grow, but now it is clear that the resistant starch is responsible. Dr Topping says. The starch can be used to form an environment-friendly packaging which could even be eaten, he says. Resistant starch could also be used to carry chemicals through the digestive tract to treat diseases of the bowel.

Sweet smell of romance

Do human beings possess a 'sixth sense' of smell?

Anjana Ahuja reports

Having no luck pursuing the object of your desire? It could be time to ditch the etiquette manual. If you believe the advertisements for perfumes containing pheromones, the key to success lies in swapping expensive after-shave for good old body odour.

It might sound dubious but just think of the results. In an ideal world, those animal smells would send a subliminal sexual signal capable of inspiring great passion. Then again, he or she might never want to come near again.

Scientists have not been able to agree whether human beings have the right olfactory equipment to pick up on the scent of lust. However, the dispute is set to intensify with the news this month that researchers have discovered a new system of smell in rats and mice. The system refines their ability to detect pheromones, chemical signals related to sexual behaviour. Such signals are known to exist in the animal world; they trigger the urge to mate, among other things. Some people believe that humans exchange similar subliminal chemical signals.

The latest discovery bestows upon the rat a third system of smell. The animal sniffs out everyday odours, such as food, using receptors on the nasal membrane which link up, via nerve fibres, to the olfactory bulb. Human beings employ an identical technique.

The rodent, however, goes one better. It possesses a distinct structure responsible for detecting pheromones. Scientists were astonished to find that this structure, called the vomeronasal organ (VNO), boasts its own complement of odour receptors, determined by a separate family of genes.

The latest twist, reported in the current issue of *Cell*, is that the VNO in rats and mice has a second set of odour receptors, associated with yet another set of genes. Dr Linda Buck, from Harvard Medical School, made the discovery in rats; Dr Catherine Dulac, from Harvard University, reported her results in mice.

Why the VNO in these animals should have two autonomous detection systems is a mystery. One suggestion is that each system is tuned to pheromones performing different roles, such as reproduction and social status. Another idea is that the various sets of receptors lock onto different portions of an odour molecule. What does this have to do with us? Because mice, rats and people share a substantial



Some scientists believe that people exchange subliminal chemical signals, similar to those that exist in the animal world

genetic heritage, gene families in these small mammals are often mirrored by groups of genes in human beings. Supporters of pheromone research are likely to claim that, somewhere in their genetic make-up, people do indeed possess a "sixth sense" of smell that governs relationships with the opposite sex.

In fact, there is evidence that we have one of these special organs up our noses. "We have known over the past 300 years that the VNO develops in embryos but it was always reported to disappear," Professor Michael Meredith, a VNO expert from Florida State

University, says. "Then researchers looked in a different place in adults and found it again."

The pertinent question, Professor Meredith says, is whether the organ is actively connected to the brain. "We know from studying corpses that there are nerve bundles from the VNO to the brain but we have no proof they were active."

If anything, Professor Meredith believes the new research destabilises the theory that human beings can detect pheromones. This is because the receptor proteins generated by these brand new genes

are flawed. Dr Dulac, who has found some matching human genes, therefore thinks that these faults will appear in the human proteins, too.

In other words, even if we choose to believe we send out chemical signals to each other, our pheromone antennae are genetically switched off. This view will not be universally popular.

The Pherin Corporation, whose laboratories are at the University of Utah, earns its keep through selling bottled human pheromones through a company called Eroxx. Both Pherin and Eroxx were set up by Dr David Berliner, a

Professor of Anatomy at the university.

Pherin holds a patent on the use of human pheromones in fragrances, and is planning to bring its concoctions, Realm Man and Realm Woman, to Britain.

Professor Meredith says it is difficult to isolate completely the VNO from other organs, so changes which Pherin claims it has recorded could have been accidentally induced. He doesn't hide his scepticism. "The human pheromone business runs on rumour and hope, not on fact. And now it looks like the issue is going to get interesting."

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A very awkward customer

David Walsh stalks supermarkets and calls himself a consumers' crusader. The stores see it as a vendetta. Interview by Bill Frost

After glaring furiously at the last few remaining bananas on the shelf, Dr David Walsh begins to hum ominously under his breath while hopping up and down. Then, to the surprise of all about him, he bursts into song.

"Yes, we have no bananas, we have no bananas today!" A fixed smile takes over his face while he bellows the line a dozen times; those unfortunate enough to be within earshot back away swiftly.

Dr Walsh is one of life's complainers. He enjoys being awkward, enjoys taking on the big battalions — always has, always will. He does not get mad, he always gets even.

Like Rumpelstiltskin in blue nylon shorts, he whirls from aisle to aisle at his local Tesco supermarket in Maidstone, passing judgment on every item, from soft fruit to own-brand washing powder. It's a daily routine, and the staff have come to fear and hate their tormentor.

His pugnacious jawline and set expression of angry disapproval strike terror into checkout girls, shelf loaders, cleaners and managers alike.

"My aim in life is to give them a hard time and I think I have succeeded," he says proudly, while poking pears contemptuously with his bitten fingernails.

"This really drives me mad! The pears are either too hard or too soft — it should not be beyond the wit of this lot to get some ripe ones onto the shelves," he says, while again hopping from foot to foot in apparently demented fury.

Tesco opened for business in Maidstone at about the same time that Dr Walsh, an erstwhile law lecturer in the United States, moved to his home, which backs on to the supermarket car park. His vendetta against the store began the first day he crossed the threshold.

"I think it all started at the meat counter. I asked why British beef was so much more expensive than Australian meat, and was met with this 'take it or leave it' attitude."

"Then I started looking closely at everything on sale and realised that I wasn't getting value for money. And as for customer service, forget it!"

Dr Walsh, 53, tears at another cruelly chewed nail as

he recalls the "scandal of the yellow peppers". The memory haunts him still — "as much as 85 pence each, one day and absolutely no flavour".

His eyes roam the store, seeking out someone in authority — "only one cherry pie left at 2pm on a Friday and they won't restock the shelves until tomorrow morning — what sort of service is that?"

A young trainee manager walks up behind him and, recognising Dr Walsh's squat physique at the last minute, beats a hasty retreat to household goods on the next aisle.

Unaware that his prey has escaped him, he carries on fulminating against the store. "I come every day in the hope that they may have pulled their socks up. They haven't managed to get rid of me, but they'd love to."

"Everyone from the manager on down trembles in terror when I am in because they don't know what I'll get up to next. They think I'm mad, but not one of my complaints has ever been unsubstantiated."

He flies into a fresh tantrum when he sees a shopper paying with a credit card at a cash-only till. "Rules are there for a purpose. She is just delaying everyone else and it shouldn't be allowed."

Some days he pops into his local Sainsbury, too. He says that his reception is not always as cordial as he would like.

"The manager once had the cheek to tick me off for complaining, and one of his checkout girls laughed in my face when I asked to see her superior. I can't remember what the issue was, but their manner left a lot to be desired."

He models himself on Ralph Nader (the American consumer campaigner). "I suppose you could call me a consumers' crusader, rather like him," he says.

"And it's not just empty complaining either — I get results. While I was working in Dallas, I shut stores down by organising boycotts."

"One manager agreed to assemble his staff, and I walked down the line pointing out those people whose work wasn't up to scratch. I think they got the sack."

Does he feel a twinge of guilt over their dismissal? "Not at all. If they are not up to the job,

then somebody else should be doing it."

Dr Walsh, one of three monumentally awkward characters to feature in *The Complainers*, Channel 4's *Cutting Edge* programme on Tuesday, September 23, never buys



Dr David Walsh: "I come every day in the hope that they may have pulled their socks up," he says. "They haven't managed to get rid of me, but they'd love to"

more than half a dozen items on his daily visits to Tesco.

"I must admit that the cherry pies are very good," he says grudgingly.

"But I do my main shop in France twice a month," he adds. "Everything there is so much better and so much cheaper, and I cover my travelling costs on what I save — everything from peppers to kitchen towel is less expensive."

Andrew Coker, Tesco's communications manager, has met Dr Walsh only once — but he says that it is unlikely he will forget the encounter.

"Perhaps his is not simply a vendetta against the Maidstone store. Perhaps it's a vendetta against all supermar-

kets — perhaps it is a vendetta against the whole world. I just feel sorry for the staff, though. We have had a couple of girls leave because of Dr Walsh. OK, maybe we get things wrong sometimes, but we are the first to admit a mistake and put things right. However, when a complaint is made for its own sake, when someone is having a go for its own sake, that is dreadful for the staff, whose life is stressful enough anyway," he says.

So why does Dr Walsh drive himself to distraction in Tesco every day? Could he possibly have become obsessed, a little unhinged even? He looks blank for a moment or two after the question is asked.

"It has never crossed my mind that I might be going mad, never once. But this vendetta has caused me a lot of stress — I dream about Tesco sometimes, dream that I am standing outside with a big banner criticising the goods and lack of customer service."

"I'll never give up, though. They can say what they like — and some staff have been insulting — but I will still keep coming back, day in, day out. The trouble with us Brits is that we accept whatever is put in front of us without complaint. Well, not me."

"Of course it makes me angry that they treat me with contempt. The people at Tesco think I am a troublemaker because I point out that their shelves aren't restocked often

enough, unless it is with expensive items or junk food. "And of course I am tense," he says, glowering at the frozen desserts, and tearing at another bitten nail.

He adds: "It is so infuriating when goods are overpriced

and the staff couldn't care less about the customers. It's a stressful mission that I have chosen, but someone's got to do it."

● The Complainers. *Cutting Edge*, Channel 4, Tuesday, September 23 at 9pm.

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How a drink a day can help to protect the heart from harm

In 1991, a British epidemiologist confirmed what many doctors had long suspected: that alcohol can reduce the risk of cardiac disease. In the second extract from his new book, **Dr Thomas Stuttaford** explains how moderate amounts of alcohol can help to ward off one of the leading causes of death

TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH



DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

When I joined my family's practice in rural Norfolk there were patients who would long since have died had they been living near the London teaching hospital where I worked. Their survival puzzled me for a long while, but I slowly realised that there were three components to it.

The patients, now elderly, had taken steady, regular exercise all their lives while working on the land. Many of those who had worked on farms had osteoarthritis after years of toiling in damp, windswept fields, and consequently took aspirin daily, which helped to protect the heart and blood vessels. The third factor was that very few of my Norfolk patients were teetotalers.

Wine-drinking was not then popular in Norfolk, but those who lived in my practice regularly enjoyed beer and had whisky when there was anything to celebrate. One retired farmer must have weighed 30 stone, had high blood pressure and a puce complexion; each day as I drove past his gate I was surprised that his Maker had spared him for another 24 hours. His wife was of similar build.

Years later, I went back and there, by the gate, was the same old man with his wife. Neither seemed to have changed. I told him that on no account was he to stop either his daily pint or aspirin.

Although evidence of the benefits of alcohol had been accumulating for many years, it continued to be denied by doctors until October 1991, when Sir Richard Doll, an Oxford-based epidemiologist and an internationally accepted leader in his field, declared that drinking up to four glasses of wine a day reduced the likelihood of coronary thrombosis. Those who had advocated this, and had been derided for it, were at last vindicated.

Since the early 1970s, rumours had been circulating that French doctors had confirmed that wine had a cardio-protective effect not shared equally by other forms of alcohol. At first British doctors

dismissed, even ridiculed, the idea that wine could have a greater benefit than other drinks. However, at about the same time two studies in America were showing that moderate drinkers had less heart disease than either teetotalers or heavy drinkers.

In California, a research team reviewed the drinking habits of 87,526 female nurses. The survey showed a marked reduction in heart disease in moderate drinkers, which far outweighed any increase in death from other causes. Further work with the nurses has shown that moderate drinkers not only have less lethal heart disease, but also suffer from fewer other fatal illnesses.

Another study, of 1,422 male civil servants, also revealed that light and moderate drinkers showed less evidence of heart disease than heavy drinkers or abstainers. The findings of large-scale population studies have been supported by animal experiments. In one, two scientists, David Clerfield and David Kritchinsky, compared the effect of wine, beer and spirits on rabbits that had been enjoying glutinous meals enriched with fats. Those that had only water to drink with their meals had the worst arteries. Beer and spirit drinkers fared little better. The wine drinkers, conversely, had to some extent been protected from arterial disease. Recent research, on human beings rather than rabbits, has shown that some forms of beer provide better protection than others. The dark brown beers

really are, as the advertisements suggested, "good for you". We now know dark beers contain more of the known flavonoids than light beer.

In 1995 a Copenhagen survey found that wine drinkers were indeed favoured by the gods, and enjoyed better health than those who were either abstainers or beer drinkers. Spirit drinkers in Copenhagen did only marginally better than teetotalers.

However, there is one cloud: a small proportion of heavy drinkers may find that their habit leads to cardiomyopathy, or disease of the heart muscle.

The famous 18th-century physician Dr Heberden noticed in 1772 that a "nightcap" prevented nocturnal angina, but it was 200 years before the effect of alcohol on this condition was scientifically investigated.

In 1956 the *Journal of the American Medical Association* carried an account by Dr Russek of experiments in which a couple of double whiskies were compared with nitroglycerine as preventers of angina. Dr Russek was surprised to find

that, although whisky was just as good as glyceryl trinitrate at banishing the pain, it had no effect on the electrocardiogram, ECG.

Later experiments showed that normal coronary arteries flowing through undamaged heart muscles are indeed dilated by alcohol, but that once a heart has been damaged by coronary heart disease, it behaves differently.

Moderate drinkers have less heart disease

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The French have long lauded the benefits of wine. Now doctors advise that a little light imbibing can help to prevent the onset of heart disease

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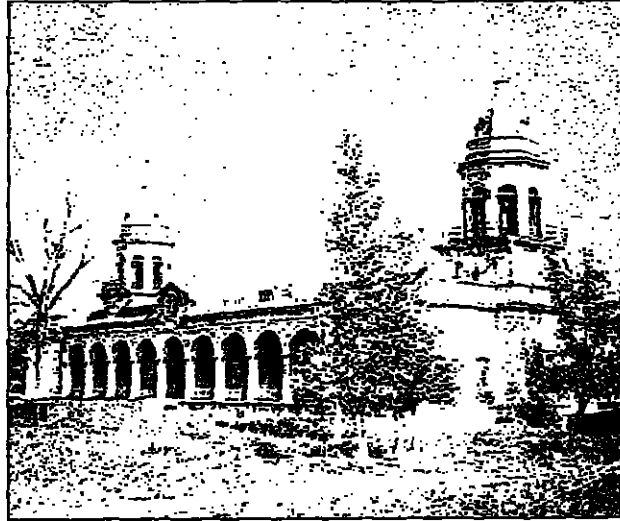
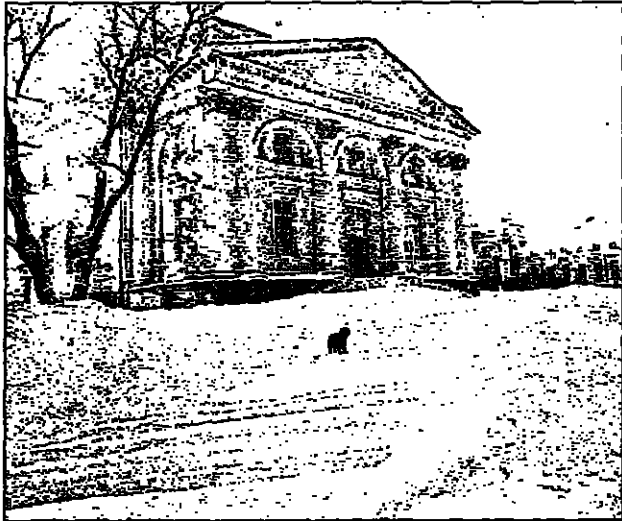
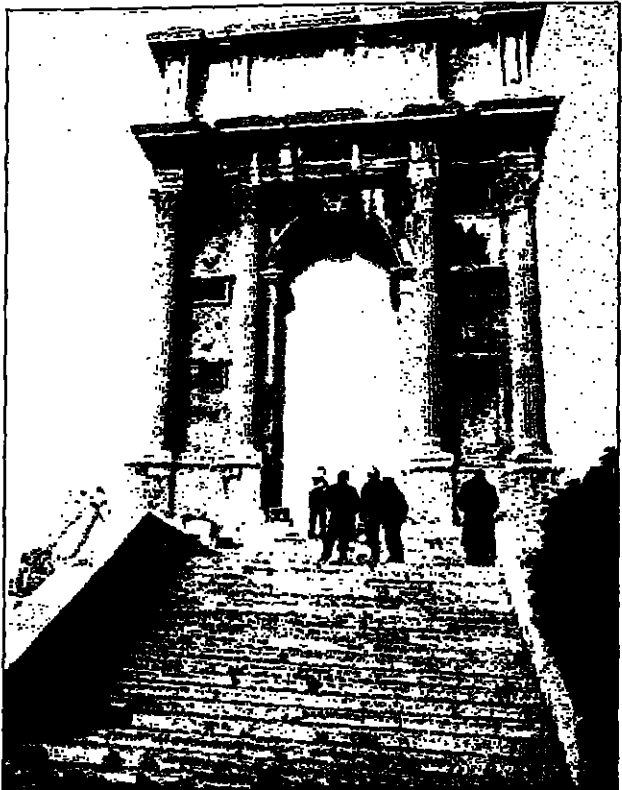
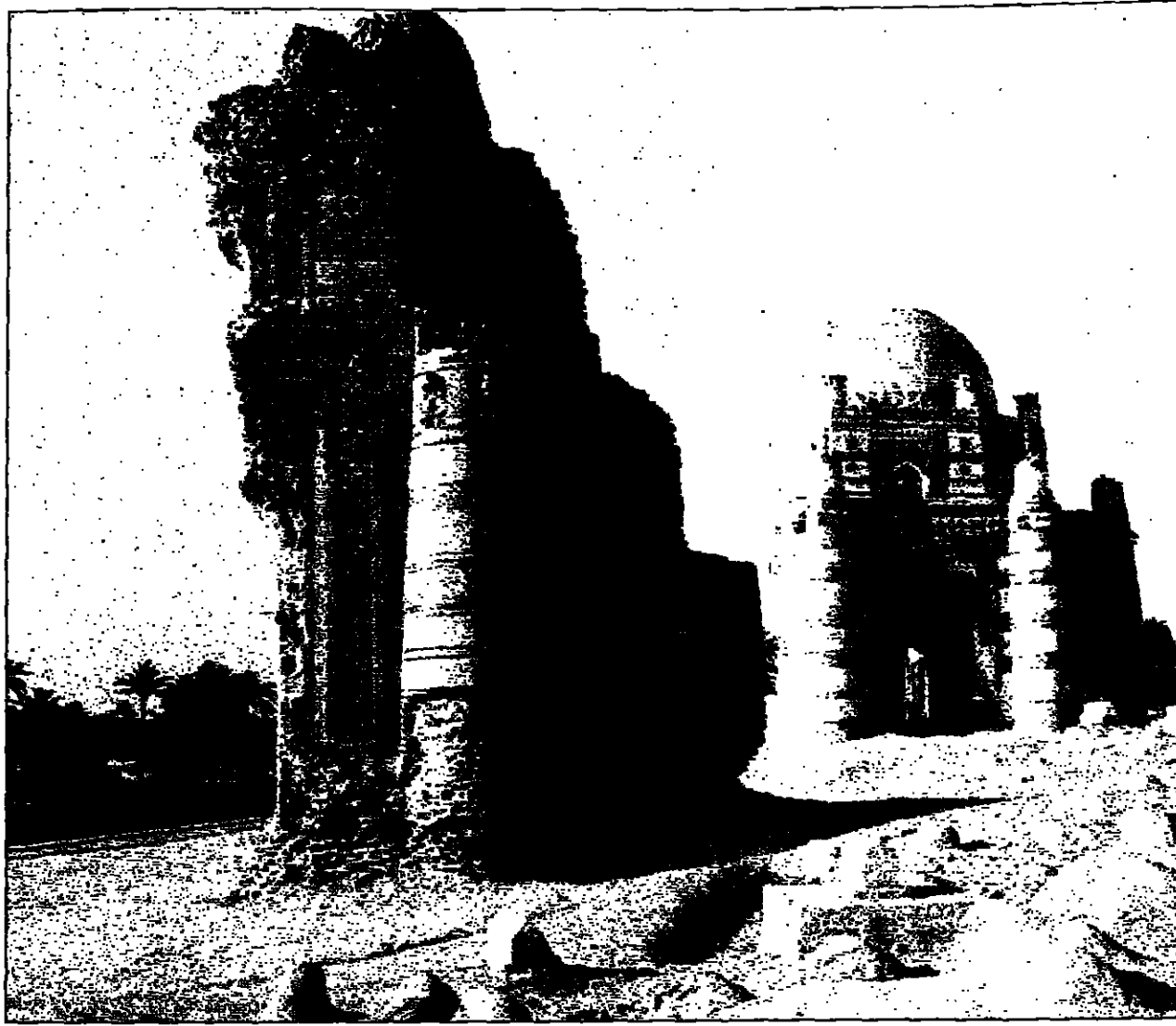
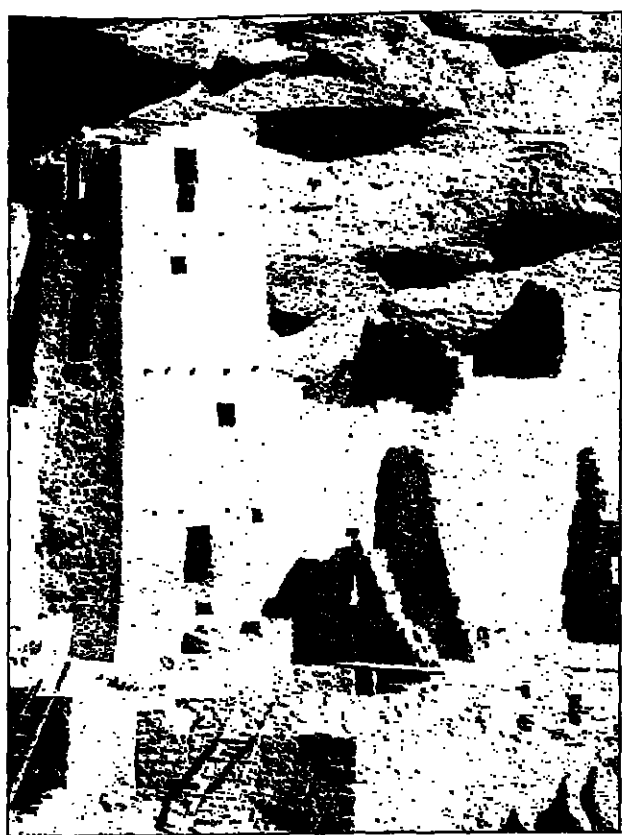
Buckingham Palace Summer Opening of the State Rooms

The State Rooms re-opened for visitors on Sunday 7th September. They will remain open every day until Sunday 5th October, 1997.

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Marcus Binney scans a list of the world's '100 Most Endangered Sites', which is published today



Clockwise from top left: Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado; Uch Monument, Pakistan; Carolina Hacienda, Mexico; Alexander Palace, St Petersburg; Arch of Trajan, Italy

Mission: stop the crumble

The race to save the world's forgotten heritage takes a stride forward today with the publication of a new list of "The 100 Most Endangered Sites" by the World Monuments Fund. The importance of this list is that anyone anywhere may propose candidates. They do not have to be approved by governments or vetted by civil servants.

The WMF list only exists courtesy of a £1 million grant offered by American Express. But its effectiveness is shown by the fact that three quarters of the nominations on the first

list, published last year, have been removed because the danger is no longer acute. Pride of place this year must go to the Ugandan Roman Catholic bishop who, having failed to get included on the first list in 1996, badgered the WMF organisers in New York from a payphone until they accepted his case. His cathedral at Masaka may date from only 1917, but the value of the list is that it includes 19th and 20th-century structures as well as ancient and prehistoric ones.

From Moscow comes the Russakov Club by the great

Constructivist architect Konstantin Melnikov, where the theatre is unsafe. Scotland's nomination, after years of campaigning by Gavin Stamp ("Pilot" in *Private Eye*), is the extraordinary St Vincent Street Church by Alexander "Greek" Thomson, where American Express, the main sponsor, presented a cheque for \$50,000 last week.

In the south of Italy the fund is focusing attention on a series of 160 rock-hewn churches in Puglia, many of which still feature Byzantine wall paintings. From the 1st century AD comes a subterranean basilica in Rome containing possibly the finest stuccos surviving from antiquity; they are being shaken from the walls by vibrations from trains overhead.

In Bolivia, funds are sought for a 16th-century church at Callapa, one of dozens of adobe churches facing extinction. More ancient still are 45 pre-Columbian funerary towers recently discovered in western Bolivia, which have survived centuries of sand erosion, freezing winters and aggressive nesting birds only to be despoiled by passers-by using a new road.

In St Petersburg the Alexander Palace, where the Tsar and his family spent their last years, opened its doors on August 11, thanks partly to the fund. In Beijing the 15th-century Jufu Hall, one of the few survivors of the Cultural Revolution, is in danger of losing its superb roof, lacquered with golden dragons.

Fourteenth-century Namseiling is one of only six surviving Tibetan manor houses, a ruinous seven-storey house standing alone in the landscape and now being stabilised. In Mexico, local people are battling to rescue the Italianate Carolina Hacienda, the 1896 home of General Lewis Terrazas, the country's richest landowner before the revolution.

The list includes vernacular architecture in Trondheim in Norway and Tbilisi in Georgia, and the ornate wooden courtyard houses of Ahmedabad in India. And there are such diverse items as the Arch of Trajan, standing in an unlikely setting of cranes, piles of coal and railway lines in the dockyard at Ancona in Italy; the 16th-century Sufi shrines and mausoleums at Uch in Pakistan, some half-collapsed yet poignantly retaining their superb glazed tiles; and the Cliff Palace in Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado.

people." Unesco officials are wont to say as the glamorous delegates of the World Monuments Fund descend upon them. But the beautiful people have started something. The site both organisations need to tackle together is the Royal Palaces at Benin, where the bronzes came from. Between 1645 and 1906, 12 African kings built palaces embellished with murals and sculpture. The best are in danger of imminent collapse.

Further information from the World Monuments Fund, 699 Park Avenue, New York, or on <http://www.worldmonuments.org>

BBC PROMS

Lower the curtain and raise the roof

PERIOD performance has long been a feature of the Proms, but traditionalists will be glad to hear that it has not yet reached the Last Night. The final concert of the 103rd season opened in the Albert Hall on Saturday with a rendering of Handel's *Zadok the Priest* of which Sir Henry Wood would have been proud. Banks of BBC Symphony Orchestra strings plodded through the introductory arpeggios, rising to a Wagnerian climax and the acclamatory shout of massed singers (the BBC Singers and Symphony Chorus in good voice).

Genuine Wagner was soon to be heard in the shape of the *Prelude and Liebestod* from *Tristan and Isolde*. Andrew Davis shaped the *Prelude* lovingly and Anne Evans delivered an intimate *Liebestod*. Hers is not the ringing, heroic voice traditionally associated with Wagnerian heroines, but one capable of infinite subtlety.

There was little such subtlety in organist Wayne Marshall's swift dispatching of Messiaen's *Transports de Joie* from *L'Ascension*. Marshall's technique is so prodigious that he can rattle off such a fearsome toccata as though it were a five-finger exercise. But the virtuosity should be incidental to the piece and the breathless, detached style

failed to suggest grandeur or religious ecstasy.

The Messiaen followed without a break from Judith Weir's *Sanctus* from the *Requiem of Reconciliation* — a movement from the multi-composer commemorative work assembled in Stuttgart in 1995 to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Pamela Priestley-Smith and Lynette Alcantara distinguished themselves in the solo soprano and mezzo roles.

Wayne Marshall returned after the interval, to the piano this time, for Gershwin's *Variations on I Got Rhythm*. Here his exuberant virtuosity was put to good use and his extrovert performance was received with much enthusiasm. But then — with the exception of Britten's *Irish Reel* and Weber's *Leise, leise* from *Der Freischütz* — this was the beginning of the slippery slope to the embarrassing infantilism that marks the latter stages of the Last Night. An unscheduled extra appearance by Evans, with a Valkyrie's headdress and spear, afforded a round of "Ho! Ho! Ho!" and then we were into the patriotic perennials, punctuated by the hooters and whistles banned under a sterner regime.

BARRY MILLINGTON

In memoriam

THE themes of this year's Proms have, in their latter days, been played out with many a sad variation. When Sir Colin Davis raised his baton at the start of the *Requiem of Reconciliation*, the penultimate improvisation was in place, for the late Sir Georg Solti was to have conducted this Verdi performance and dedicated it to the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The double memorial, far from sounding hastily prepared, had all the dignity and breadth of vision that one would expect from the London Symphony Orchestra with Sir Colin at the helm. The breathing of the work was slower, deeper, perhaps, than we might have heard from Sir Georg; but the dance of voices in the *Sanctus* rang with just the quality of exuberance which characterised the Solti of recent years. And not for one moment was the raw suffering and terror uniquely expressed in this *Requiem* compromised.

There is light and there is sweetness in the work — and we heard them as Michèle Crider's soprano ascended with the solo violin to archangelic realms, and as Olga Borodina's mezzo-soprano turned sound into light itself in the *Lux aeterna*. But this

Requiem ends with a still urgent plea of "Libera me!", and it was a huge presence of awe which resonated at the heart of this Albert Hall performance.

The London Symphony Chorus and London Voices hung on every consonant to mute and sustain the barely pitched opening. It was Borodina, above all, with her chillingly dark chest voice and intense control of tone and half-tone, who focused the unique character of this performance.

The night before, Mahler's Fifth Symphony had begun with a funeral march and ended with transformation both musical and metaphysical, in an incandescent performance of penetrating clarity of vision given by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Sir Simon Rattle. In possibly the single greatest evening of music-making in a memorable season, this performance was matched by another of rare and extraordinary accomplishment: Maxim Vengerov's Shostakovich Violin Concerto No 1, in which every movement of the human body seemed indivisible from the sinew, nerves and innermost heartbeat of the music itself.

HILARY FINCH

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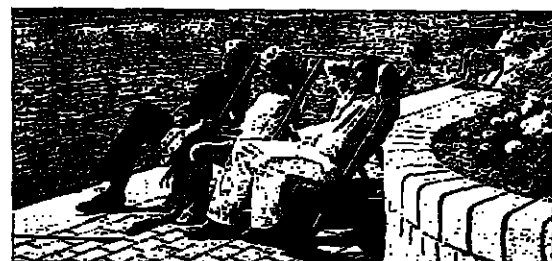
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Argentina's answer to Dartmoor, the Ushuaia prison in barren Tierra del Fuego, is now on its way to becoming a visitor attraction. Belgium offers an extraordinary colony estate at Wortel, built in 1822 to provide destitute families with a small house, a plot of land, two cows, a sheep, tools and clothing. Alas, it failed — though it served as an enforced shelter for the homeless until Belgium's harsh laws on vagrancy were repealed.

Unesco, which promulgates the official World Heritage list, intended to draw up its own list of heritage in danger. So far, however, only 12 nominations have been made, though some of these, such as Dubrovnik and the underground saltmines in Poland, have been successfully tackled. "Here come the beautiful

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Avant-garde kicks itself out of view

Rachel Campbell-Johnston on the ageing of British art's young rebels

Sensible shoes. That's what you need to keep pace with the contemporary art scene. Show spaces are like those ephemeral ecosystems that drift in the oceans. They spring up secretly, thrive briefly, and die as suddenly as they began. Scattered all over the metropolis, they flourish in the interstices of urban life: in unattended shops, abandoned warehouses, quiet offices and empty archways. The art aficionado will need an A-Z and a determined stride to find them.

But be persistent — enter those alleyways, climb that fire escape, follow those footprints in the corridor dust — and eventually you will arrive at the avant-garde. What is it like? Well, rather like the family lunatic brought down from the attic — ranting, unpredictable and a bit threatening. And the art is usually well guarded by its proprietors — Britain's newest breed of young contemporaries. They are easily recognised by their sensible shoes: sturdy boots, with lots of lacing. They come in useful when kicking down establishment doors.

There is something exciting about this off-centre art scene. There is a mood of silent armies gathering somewhere out of sight — as the Fauvists once gathered in Paris, or the Blaue Reiter movement in Munich. "These things are done in gangs," wrote Walter Sickert, of how a group of artists develop a new style. And it was, indeed, in gangs that Britain's best-known contemporary artists have done it. They have mastered like unruly schoolchildren out of hours flicking V signs at passers-by.

If the main object of any new art movement is to unsettle, then the most celebrated new grouping of British artists has succeeded. Ever since the young Goldsmiths student Damien Hirst gathered his mates together ten years ago to stage *Freeze*, a show held in a vacated Port of London Authority building in SE16, they have been ruffling feathers. Their work was radical and disturbing, brazen, cheeky, ironic, rude, and above all curiously memorable.

Council estate culture battered at the door of embarrased Middle England. And the artists were like job-cration salesmen, with in-your-face credentials and wares — fertility, violence, waste, cruelty, vice, death — on show. If older generations were armoured against such youthful rawness, younger people found that they raked exposed nerves.

They discovered a fierce fertility in such works as Hirst's *A Thousand Years* in which maggot hatch and feed on a rotting cow's head, metamorphosing eventually into flies that crawl forthly against the glass before their brutal death by insect-o-cutor. If there is something manipulative and prurient, there is also something vulnerable and poignant about pieces such as Gillian Wearing's *Signs that say what you want*

them to say and not signs that say what someone else wants you to say. Ordinary people hold up their own handwritten messages — evocative and touching — on scraps of paper. And even if such pieces might appear glib, at least they stir up good old-fashioned debate about "truth" in photography and photography in the arena of art.

The work of these artists played with that most intractable of questions: what counts as art? And if at times their work may have seemed shocking, this served only to highlight the innate conservatism of the art world.

The more conventional critics frothed and loathed, then slowly began to change their opinions — led by the convictions of the few. Gradually, the new young artists found themselves showing in ever more mainstream places. They turned up at the Hayward, the Serpentine, the Venice Biennale. Gary Hume, Mark Wallinger and Rachel Whiteread were nominated — indeed the last won — the Turner Prize. And usually the publicity frenzy flew apace. Many of the artists began to believe their own hype. Like overexcited teenagers in

search of attention, some started to shout louder. They became ever more brash and brazen, reveling in grue-someness and gore, sacrificing integrity for commercial sensation. But shock in itself makes a weak tool. Its effects wore off all too soon. Is it not hard to remember, for instance, why Manet's *Olympia* or his *Déjeuner sur l'herbe* should ever have been considered such a disgraceful affront?

If the young Brit artists had made their reputations challenging establishment views, they increasingly found themselves with nothing to smash against. They had themselves become the Establishment: institutionalised by the Tate, promoted overseas by the British Council, their reputations endorsed by the Arts Council.

The Royal Academy represents the last bastion of artistic conservatism. Its august Georgian halls are probably the last space in which an exhibition of the work of this younger generation of artists still has the capacity to provoke a stir.

Maybe with an exhibition secretary as sympathetic to their cause as Norman Rosenthal, their gaining entry to the sanctum has been a little too like kicking at an open door. Several academicians have risen gratefully (to a publicity-hungry artist, at least) to the bait, with angry fumbling and loud resignations.

Such squabbling is certain to shift tacks. But the showing of Sue Webster's collection at the RA this week will probably be the last chance for at least one grouping of artists to make their spongyous sensation.

The artists have been shot in the sensible shoe. Art aficionados must do up their laces and ready themselves for another lung trek if they want to seek the avant-garde.

Devolution and the European movement may be leading to the destruction of England as a nation

Revenge of the Celtic fringe

largely proportional system; there may be a Welsh assembly similarly elected. There may be a referendum or a general election on a proposal for Britain to join the single currency; there may be a referendum or a general election decision that the Westminster Parliament should be selected on a proportional system. On both issues the Labour and Liberal parties would be in agreement and the Conservatives would be opposed.

If these are the two major issues of the next election, which will probably come in 2001, there would presumably be an electoral pact between the Liberal and Labour parties. If a Lab-Lib combination were successful in that election, the following election, in 2005 or 2006, would be fought on some variant of the present German electoral system, such as has already been promised for Scotland. At the same time, Britain would have taken the almost irreversible decision to join the single currency; we might actually join in the early years of the next Parliament. At the same time there may be a campaign to create, without much public demand, separate English regions, with regional assemblies on the Welsh model, or possibly even with regional parliaments on the Scottish model. This would create English equivalents of the German *Länder*; whereas the German *Länder* grew out of the old independent princedoms of Germany, the new English regions would be entirely artificial, with no

historic point of reference later than the Anglo-Saxons. England would be divided as a nation by the same constitutional process that would have strengthened the nationhood of Wales and Scotland. The UK would then become a part of the European superstate that may emerge in the early decades of the next century. The Lab-Lib coalition could be expected to win elections until the electorate became bored with it; it would have a strong bias in favour of European integration.

This would indeed be the revenge

William Rees-Mogg

of the Celtic fringe. Scottish nationhood would be strengthened — something most English people accept. Welsh nationhood would be confirmed — which the English are equally prepared to welcome. The English nation would be divided into petty regions, so that English nationhood would be gutted. At the same time, all these nations would become part of a single European state, with a single currency, with harmonisation of taxes at a high level, eventually with its own defence and foreign policy. To top all this, the electoral

system would be changed so that the Conservatives could not get back into power at Westminster until they could win more than 50 per cent of the vote, against all comers. By the time they did that it would be far too late to reverse the great project, which is no less than the destruction of England as a nation.

In England, some people see this prospect quite clearly, and welcome it. They believe that the creation of a single European state is historically inevitable, that Britain will be better off inside it than outside, that Europe will become an economic superpower, and that as a single state it will be free from the threat of European wars. It is hard to justify their optimism.

The development of the European Union since the Second World War has not been democratic, but bureaucratic. All bureaucracies have built-in obsolescence: they lose touch with their people and strangle themselves in their own regulations. Europe has lost competitiveness relative to Asia and already has very high unemployment. The whole tendency of late 20th-century politics has been for empires to break up: this is a project for creating a new Holy Roman Empire. Modern electronic communications are global rather than regional, and undermine the taxing power of all states, large or small. Europe has a high-tax culture. The single currency does not provide any

adjustment mechanism for differential economic shocks in an area of many languages and low mobility of labour. The internal contradictions of the proposed super-Europe seem as great as those of the United States before Civil War.

Perhaps, as the Scottish think, the English have been too much the top dogs in the UK. I am myself of half-Irish descent, and Ireland was the worst treated of the smaller nations under English rule. But it would be wrong for the Government to forget that England is a nation too; indeed we are a nation with an older and stronger tradition of democracy than any other on earth. This very Scottish Cabinet would be ill-advised to humiliate England.

The English are in a mood for accepting change: the scale of the Labour victory on May 1 shows that, so in a different way does the great emotional response to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. But the English will not welcome losing their national identity, and will not accept losing their democracy. Already the major part of new laws affecting Britain is Brussels law, not made by elected representatives but by nominated commissioners and their civil servants. If we join the single currency, tax harmonisation will follow and the ultimate democratic principle, "no taxation without representation", will be at stake.

Scotland is now the historic example for England. In 1707 the Scottish Parliament merged itself into the United Kingdom Parliament, and the Scottish people have spent nearly 300 years trying to get back some of their powers. The English stand relative to Europe where the Scots stood relative to England in 1707: we are being asked to sacrifice our independence, for the economic benefits of joining a larger power. We do not want to spend the next 300 years trying to get it back.

Time to start the real show

When will the Government get down to specific business, asks Peter Riddell

Tony Blair has a problem. His political position will never be stronger. Labour is impregnable in the Commons and the Tories have yet to find a clear voice, or an audience. Mr Blair's personal ratings remain in the stratosphere and his authority as a national leader has been reinforced by his handling of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. But how should he exploit this opportunity? Mr Blair is by instinct an activist, a user rather than a hoarder of political capital.

After the various generalisations of the past fortnight, it is time to blow away the froth. So much nonsense has been written about the creation of a new Britain that I have longed for a George Orwell to prick the plethora of pretensions. Something remarkable did happen, as anyone going to the royal palaces saw. But the main implications are for the monarchy, rather than for party politics. The public is more level-headed than many pundits about separating the tragic death of a celebrity from the fate of the nation, and their own lives.

I am sceptical of talk of a dramatic new mood, although it may boost the Prime Minister's standing. Mr Blair has made much in the past week of a desire for modernisation as a connecting theme of the Government's programme, but it is hard to know what this means in practice. Mr Blair's comment in his *UC* speech, "modernity is our spirit as it is the spirit of an age, the desire to build a new Britain free from the old prejudices", sounds rather like Harold Wilson circa 1963-64.

In that modernisation is more than just a catchy slogan, it reflects less the soul-searching of the past fortnight than the desire for a fresh start that



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

led to the Tory rout on May 1, and was also reflected in the Scottish devolution vote. But this has mainly been a time-for-a-change mood. It does not yet amount to an ideological shift as significant as in the 1980s.

Admittedly, the Blair landslide, the humbling of Jacques Chirac, the disarray of the Republicans in America and the fissures in the Kohl coalition prompted *The Weekly Standard*, that liveliest of American political weeklies, to produce a special issue on the theme "Is there a worldwide conservative crack-up?"

The main reason that right-wing parties have been doing badly is internal divisions and loss of direction produced by longevity in office. There is less evidence of ideological rejection, as opposed to exhaustion. Most successful Centre-Left leaders — Blair, Bill Clinton and Romano

Prodi — have accepted the policy shifts of the 1980s in their positioning to the centre and reinvention of themselves as "new".

But the ideological ground has shifted. As Irwin Stelzer argued in *The Weekly Standard* symposium, the conservative victories of the 1980s contained the seeds of subsequent defeats. More competitive and less regulated markets increased the personal risks and insecurities with which voters must live. The Right's political difficulties prevented it from developing a coherent and credible answer. This created the opening for the reformed parties of the centre-left to say they would run a market economy in a more caring and socially cohesive style, the elusive

third way between Thatcherism (or its caricature) and old-style collectivism.

The Centre-Left came to power promising a new beginning, but with cautious, and often evasive, pledges and much reassurance about its financial responsibility. That is Mr Blair's dilemma now. He may have a vague mandate for modernisation, but he is constrained by commitments not to increase overall spending and income tax. Well before the death of the Princess, Mr Blair and John Prescott realised that a new phase would start this autumn after the post-election euphoria of the summer. The multitude of policy reviews will have to report. Decisions will soon have to be taken, by ministers who have never faced the hard choices of office.

The Government has to risk un-

popularity, not least with its own supporters. This will be seen over its intention to hold down public sector pay bills for teachers and nurses. Moreover, Labour has had no serious policy for the health service. Promising to end the internal market is meaningless on its own. A formal system of rationing is unacceptable, so more money will have to be raised from charges, a special earmarked health tax (favoured by some) or by encouraging private insurance. The Government will this autumn also have to decide how far to accept Frank Field's ideas for reviving a genuinely contributory social security system. Similarly, the only solution for the chronic problems of London Underground is to attract private capital in ways that amount to privatisation by another name.

Mr Blair's personal authority will also be tested over Northern Ireland, Bosnia (especially if Congress forces President Clinton to withdraw American troops next year) and Europe. This week-end's meeting of European finance ministers has shown that a single currency will go ahead on plan in 1999, so Mr Blair will have to declare his hand before long. Britain is still unlikely to enter in the first wave but Mr Blair will want to show that he does not intend to use the British presidency in the first half of next year to be obstructive and delay monetary union. Moving to a more positive stand will require political skill with his Cabinet and party.

So the Government is at a critical stage in moving from general rhetoric to specific policies. Mr Blair has left ministers in no doubt of how focused he is on the next election and beyond. But the other side is apprehension, about how his standing will be affected by the inevitable setbacks of any premiership.

Will there be a sudden media swing against him if the party leadership suffers defeats from bruised, resentful union leaders at the Labour conference in two weeks? But, for the moment, Mr Blair has the chance to reshape the political landscape. He should be bold. The opportunity will not last for long.

Who dares?

THE SAS, worried that recent controversies have dented its swash-buckling image, has hired a public relations supreme. Its choice? Colonel Bob Stewart, whose heroic leading British forces in Bosnia were undermined by his hardy personal campaigns, prompting the cheaper prints to dub him "Bonking Bob". Since resigning from the Army after marrying a Swiss-born Red Cross nurse to years his junior, for

whom he left his wife of 20 years, he has kept a low profile, although during the general election he popped up in Tatten to help to run Martin Bell's anti-lease campaign. Recent "shoot and tell" relations of life — and death — inside the SAS regiment have demoralised top brass at Herford. Bravo Two Zero, Andy McNab's account of leading a disastrous patrol behind Iraqi lines in the Gulf War,



Colonel Bob: leading a no-nonsense campaign against drink?

sold more than a million copies, earned him £5 million and damaged the pledge of silence.

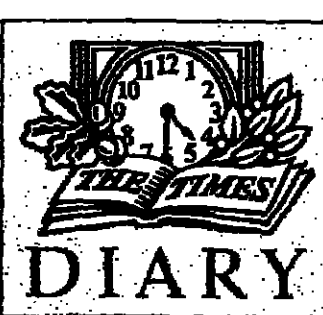
More than 40 books — some driven — have followed, showing the fallible private sides of a formerly revered force. Many senior army figures blame the rash of revelations on Sir Peter de la Billiere, the British ground forces Gulf War commander, who rushed into print the bestselling *Storm Command*. He was later banned from all special forces bases.

Enter Colonel Bob. A commander of the Cheshires in Bosnia, he was a devoted fan club back home for his no-nonsense, all-British approach to local heaves, before often filmed telling them to "get out of the bloody way".

Editorial hitch

IT IS the tanning of the beast for James Brown, the former editor of *Loaded*. The man who introduced us to the New Land and took us to previously uncharted depths of vulgarity, is getting married. Staff at GQ, which he took over recently, are hoping that his wife-to-be will make an honest man of him.

Since joining GQ, Brown has made something of an impact. Staff there recall his first shattering editorial decision, namely to throw a



bottle of wine through a closed window. Ever-willing colleagues describe their editor's new regime as "like working with a teenager".

Brown and his fiancée, Kaz, will be doing the business this month. As for the pre-nuptial arrangements, one problem remains. Just where will Brown find a venue for his stag night? "As soon as hotels find out who he is," a baffled friend says, "a prior engagement suddenly seems to materialise."

Dull speeches frequently mark the UN's deliberations. But Mary Robinson, who stepped down last week as Ireland's President, won't be adding to the boredom factor in her new post as UN Commissioner for Human Rights. She revealed to me how, as President, she set up an early-warning system against boredom in her speeches by putting her

husband's splutterings to a novel use. "He sits in the audience," she confided, "and if I'm going on a bit and people are getting restless, he gives a couple of sharp coughs. I get the message and stop talking."

No sparkle

PITY the people of Papua New Guinea who were about to experience their first-ever fireworks display. Now the Government has cancelled the show after a failed military coup and fears that explosions of any sort will spark the whole thing off again.

A disappointed Nigel Claydon of Dynamic Fireworks, the British firm hired to stage the £3,000 display, explains: "We were about to send off the consignment of 300 large fireworks. The Government is still a little nervous and will not allow into the country anything it suspects contains material that could be used as weapons — unfortunately, this includes fireworks."

Howzat?

BAD NEWS for Labour. It was soundly thrashed by the Tories in a one-off cricket match at Aldermaston, Berkshire, yesterday. In the post-election revenge fixture, Lab-

our was set for a fine innings. Tim Allan, the PM's press secretary, making an admirable 50.

But a collapse followed — and the side was all out for 124. Henry Billingham, former MP for Norfolk North West, opened for the Tories, but after a quick 34 runs retired, allowing his colleagues the chance for a swipe at their foes. Victory came rapidly, the Tories winning by six wickets. One player later observed: "There was not enough spin in Labour's delivery."

What's in a haircut? Keen observers of political style note that Ann Widdecombe has changed her look. While denouncing the Archbishop for his critique of monetarism, a blossoming Ms Widdecombe displayed a fetchingly swept-back hairstyle during a recent public appearance — this from the woman who answered "important questions about her 'Doris Karloff' image by claiming she 'didn't give a damn'."

Shopping Liszt

AFTER the sad loss of Hungarian-born conductor Sir Georg Solti, who died last weekend, comes news that his widow is to continue with her husband's fight, until the last, to save his *alma mater*, the



Lady Solti: fighting on

Frang Liszt Academy in Budapest, threatened with imminent closure over lack of funding.

The academy was founded by Liszt in 1875, and included among its teaching staff the likes of Béla Bartók and Zoltán Kodály. Sir Georg's death looked likely to put an untimely end to efforts to save it from closure. Now it appears that the campaign will continue. Lady Solti says of the academy: "This is the fount of music education in the world. Such a fantastic institution should not be allowed to fail."

P.H.S



PRINCESS AND POLITICS

The easy part is over for Blair

As the earthquake of Diana's death subsides, politicians are venturing out to view the changed political landscape. Have they been caught in the collateral damage, have the plates shifted in their direction? First out yesterday was the Conservative leader William Hague, who accused Labour of "shabby politics" and "bad government" in seeking to take credit for persuading the Palace to change the Princess's funeral arrangements.

It is easy to see why Mr Hague is annoyed. During a week in which political hostilities were suspended, Tony Blair won a significant boost from his position as Prime Minister. By christening Diana "the People's Princess", Mr Blair managed to ally her, not so subtly, with his party. By representing the public's views to the Palace, and then, when the backlash hit, defending the Royal Family against criticism, he rode the wave skilfully and earned plaudits in the process.

Mr Hague, by contrast, delivered a lame and somewhat soulless response to the news of the Princess's death, and his suggestion that Heathrow be renamed after her seemed out of tune with an age in which air travel is seen as mundane rather than thrilling. He must have been frustrated to be on the sidelines while Mr Blair scored goals.

But that is the nature of politics. Life is riskier in government than in opposition. Ministers are at the mercy of "events", but if they handle them well, they cannot be blamed for turning the fallout to their advantage. The art of politics is to seize a moment. If the Government is then able to bask in the resulting glow, so be it. The Conservatives had 18 years in this position; now it is Labour's turn. But if the past fortnight has been a good one for Mr Blair, the coming months and years hold dangers as well as opportunities.

The continuing advantage for him of the changed public mood is that he may be able to press modernisation further and faster. If he can cast the Bank of England, the trade union movement or diehard "old" Labour activists as representatives of an outmoded

Establishment, he should be able to mobilise public support for his attempts to take them on. He has already used the trick at the TUC conference; he will doubtless reach for it again at the Labour Party conference.

But Diana symbolised not just the forces of progress against conservatism; she also wanted to be queen of hearts. When the Government stands firm against higher pay for nurses, when waiting lists lengthen and patients lie on trolleys in corridors, will ministers be all the more fiercely castigated for callousness? Translating compassion into policy almost always brings demands for money.

There are dangers too for both party leaders in managing the future of the monarchy. The Prime Minister in particular will find that the demands on his time are immense and the path perilous. If he mirrors the public mood and presses for the Princess's kind of monarchy, he risks undermining the institution and inflaming republican forces on his own benches. If he forms an axis against the Queen with the modernisers around the Prince of Wales, he risks splitting the Royal Family. If he is identified with whatever modernisation the monarchy undergoes, he may be blamed by one side for letting it go too far and, by the other, for not going far enough.

Mr Hague, meanwhile, must be reluctant to follow the traditional Tory line that whatever the Queen has done is right. He knows that there is only a small and shrinking constituency for this view and that he risks being marginalised in this, as in so many other, areas. Yet his most fervent supporters would countenance no other stance.

For both men, moreover, this is a peculiarly personal matter. The monarchy is not a departmental issue; it has to be dealt with by party leaders. If it all goes wrong, no minister can be sacked, no department blamed. This may not yet be Mr Blair's Falklands War; it will still require immense reserves of tact, foresight and wisdom if he is to come out of it enhanced.

RIFLE AT THE DOOR

Republicans must prove that they belong in the talks

The most significant talks on Northern Ireland's future for 75 years start today. The Government which presides over them is led by a man avowedly determined to modernise, not unbundle, the United Kingdom. Yet, if Ulster's stability within the United Kingdom is the goal, then one would not wish to start from here. The road to the all-party talks has had too many twists and turns to make the Province's pro-Union majority anything other than uneasy.

The presence of Sinn Féin at the table with the IRA armed and defiant at the door is a remarkable concession to republicanism. On their journey to Stormont militant republicans have had their concerns addressed while democratic Unionists have been coerced into compliance. The temptation for Unionists to abandon a process which has only added to their uncertainties is understandable. But it would be poor politics to walk away now.

The Ulster Unionist Council vote to leave a decision on participation in talks to David Trimble and his negotiating team only emphasises how delicately balanced the arguments are. A principled boycott of talks with terrorists might initially hearten the Unionist grass roots. Taking a stand on the high ground would allow the entire Unionist family to unite. Having sought to move from pariah to statesman without having gone through the stage of honest participation in democratic politics, Gerry Adams is desperate to deny a genuine democrat like Mr Trimble the chance to show statesmanship. Instead, he longs for the opportunity to paint the Unionist leader as the pariah.

It is through Mr Adams's lenses that the

comments by a senior IRA figure in last week's *Republican News* should be viewed. Within days of Sinn Féin signing up to the Mitchell principles of non-violence, an unnamed member of the IRA Army Council declared it had "problems" with the principles. Sinn Féin and the IRA are a seamless robe. Whatever internal tactical debates the republican movement may have, its main propaganda sheet is no more likely to air dissent than was Brezhnev's *Pravda*. The interview was a calculated attempt to exploit legitimate Unionist cynicism about republican intentions and encourage those Unionists calling for a boycott. The threat of republican violence has already allowed Sinn Féin a disproportionate influence over Northern Ireland's future; it would be a sad irony if a murmur behind the balcony now deprived Unionism of a voice at the talks table.

The next few weeks could provide Unionists with an opportunity to have Sinn Féin's commitment to peace tested. If Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness take refuge in equivocation and euphemism and Sinn Féin is incapable of accepting the principle of consent, then the question of whether Mr Trimble might talk to republicans face-to-face becomes academic. What would be the point of a dialogue with those deaf to democracy's verdict? What would be the point of talks at all, if one party will not accept the bedrock principle to which all others subscribe? The onus this week should not be on Unionists to justify their stance but on republicans to prove that they are worthy of a place in talks. Ministers must ensure that the cocked rifle at the door does not deter them from their duty to democracy.

SOME TALK OF ALEXANDER

Who is the greatest general of all?

George Washington was the most important and successful general ever to bestride a battlefield — more influential than Napoleon, Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan or Caesar. That, at least, is the verdict of Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Lanning, a decorated American military historian, who has just produced a list of the 100 greatest military leaders of all time. His ranking, based on carefully argued criteria but essentially his own reading of history and strategy, is as contentious as the causes that the great generals championed. It will produce a clash of wills as bloody, a contest as titanic and sordid as crucial as the camp followers of this or that general as any that won the day on blood-soaked ground.

Few will quarrel with the top five nominated by Colonel Lanning, though his argument that without Washington there would have been no United States seems less a fearless charge down the road of history than a deftly executed manoeuvre to ambush the American book market. But most of those who make the top 20 would be on any considered list. Charlemagne, Cortes, Attila the Hun, Peter the Great and even General Dwight Eisenhower were undoubtedly military leaders whose exploits redrew many a boundary on the map.

Fewer, perhaps, would agree that Gustavus Adolphus, the Swedish king during the Thirty Years War, deserves to come in sixth, or that Hernando Pizarro, the Spanish

conqueror of the Incas, should enter the list immediately after him. And Hitler, at 14, is a bizarre inclusion: not only were his orders, including the determination to hang on in Stalingrad, among the most disastrous ever given to fighting men, but if the politicians of the Second World War such as Stalin and Churchill are excluded, Hitler deserves no special mention.

There are other oddities. Why should Marshal Zhukov, the victor of Stalingrad, come more than 50 places below Eisenhower and 26 below Alan Brooke? Why is Eugene of Savoy, an Austrian ally of Marlborough, rated above the Duke himself, or John Fuller, the British military analyst, above Vo Nguyen Giap, the most brilliant and more devastating Vietnamese strategist?

Colonel Lanning has commendably not restricted his judgment to European and American heroes (though there are a disproportionate number of the latter); he gives prominent place to Sun Tzu, Tamerlane, Suleiman I and Shaka, the 19th-century Zulu king. But do Castro and Kim Il Sung really rate as great military leaders? And though Richard the Lionheart looks impressive outside the Palace of Westminster, did he not spend more time messing about in the Levant than fighting serious battles? No matter: the debate has been stirred. Those who would champion a general must first know what he did: they can start with Colonel Lanning's brief but racy notes.

Unproven charges and trial by media

From Mr L. M. Oliver

Sir, Your News in Brief report ("Teacher's suicide", later editions, September 9) gave a summary of the inquest into the death of the Director of Music at St John's School, which, clearly, could only convey part of the story.

This teacher had been charged with possessing indecent photographs of a child. A day or two later the main television news and many newspapers decided the story was of such national importance as to be the main headline. The following day he committed suicide.

While one cannot condone the possession of indecent photographs of children, it is a summary offence, punishable only by fine.

I suggest it was largely the manner in which the media handled the story that resulted in the teacher's death. One wonders if the coroner had his or her attention drawn to that aspect of the matter.

We are involved in a case where a man has recently been charged with assaulting a young girl between four and six years ago. He vehemently denies the allegations. His (and his family's) name and address have been published in the local press. This has resulted in paedophilic material being put through their letterbox and damage to the property. Life has been made intolerable for the family.

Puberty following a conviction is one of the penalties for committing an offence, and so it should be. The traumatic consequences which so often follow media coverage of an unproven allegation ruin people's lives. The public may believe there is no smoke without fire. Is it right there should be such publicity before conviction?

Yours faithfully,
L. M. OLIVER,
Leslie Oliver and Co (solicitors),
Shaftesbury House,
49-51 Uxbridge Road, Ealing, W5.
September 11.

Siberian tiger's fate

From Mr Pavel Fomenko

Sir, The decision by the Russian Government to increase its financial commitment to protect the Siberian tiger, discussed in your leading article "Magnificent predators" (August 30), is welcomed by Western conservation organisations such as the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), which are already funding much of the anti-poaching effort. But the decision could be misleading.

Here in the Russian Far East this news is being treated with extreme caution. Vladimir Shetinin, head of Department Tiger (part of the region's ecological committee), who manages the anti-poaching brigades, is doubtful that this aid, whether from federal or regional sources, will be forthcoming.

If Russia is serious about saving its tigers why is it that for three years the authorities have denied the brigades use of a radio frequency so that they can use communication equipment donated by WWF and others? The brigades have also been denied the right to carry arms to defend themselves against poachers, who are armed and extremely well organised. This has placed the lives of Mr Shetinin's staff at risk on several occasions. Surely, if Russia has the political will, these requests should be granted.

There is very little chance of Russia paying for its Siberian tiger conservation programme. The money would have to come from the same federal fund that has for several months not paid doctors, teachers and scientists in the Russian Far East. As a result teachers are now on strike.

Yours etc,
PAVEL FOMENKO
(Director, WWF-Russian Far East Office, Vladivostok),
c/o Panda House,
Weyside Park, Catterhall Lane,
Godalming, Surrey.
September 12.

Animal welfare

From Mr Stuart Pattison

Sir, I agree with the entirely appropriate sceptical tone of Robin Young's article (Weekend, September 6) concerning the RSPCA's ludicrous call for a ban on beach donkey rides.

The millions of working donkeys throughout the semi-arid parts of the world are the only form of transport and haulage that poor farmers and others have. These people would be a great deal worse off without them. Donkeys are constitutionally quite able to stand much more heat and dust than anything to be found here.

The real cruelty to animals is not found on Blackpool beach, but in the battery cages and broiler houses and pig "sweat-boxes" that provide cheap animal protein for consumers. The RSPCA has, quite rightly, condemned them when necessary on animal welfare grounds but, in my view, appears to lack the courage of its convictions when taking on the intensive-food industry. Many RSPCA supporters, when they opt for the too-cheap pig and poultry products in the shops, are endorsing with their purses the very production systems they condemn.

Yours faithfully,
STUART PATTISON
(Farm animal welfare consultant),
Church Lane, Calstock, Cornwall.
September 8.

CND challenged over MI5 claims

From Dr Julian Lewis, MP for New Forest East (Conservative)

Sir, The Vice-President of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), Bruce Kent (letter, September 2), refers to "MI5-derived information... used for party political purposes" in 1983. The truth is quite different.

In April 1983 Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine and former minister Ray Whitney exposed the fact that most CND officers, executive council and elected national council members were also members of the Labour Party, the Communist Party, or other leftist groups. This disproved the claim that CND was politically non-partisan.

I supplied the Conservatives with most of the information used by them in 1983. As explained in a letter in your columns on March 6, 1985 — which was never subsequently challenged — I neither needed nor sought assistance from the security service and I published similarly accurate analyses of CND election results in the following years.

During the 1980s Mr Kent repeatedly acknowledged the decisive role of

the Communist Party in keeping CND alive in the "lean years" of the 1970s.

When communism collapsed, it emerged that the British Communist Party had been kept alive during the 1970s by hundreds of thousands of pounds of secret KGB funds. Yet not even that revelation causes Bruce Kent to exercise a little humility.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN LEWIS,
House of Commons.
September 2.

From Mr Simon Clayton

Sir, I am afraid I must question the logic of Professor Peter Harris's argument (letter, September 2).

Without public accountability it is assumed that MI5 and MI6 are worthwhile and successful; their failures are only exposed on the rare occasions an operative breaks cover and reveals them.

Sincerely,
SIMON CLAYTON,
10A St Peters Street, NI,
September 2.

Pollution warning

From Dr Elliot G. Finer,
Director General of the
Chemical Industries Association

Sir, Greenpeace (letter, September 10) suggests banning materials which people want but which some suspect may be harmful to health — just in case. In doing so Greenpeace ignores the way that knowledge evolves: scientists come up with bits of the jigsaw which can create a totally misleading picture if we do not wait for enough pieces to fall into place.

This lack of quick answers is frustrating for us all, including public policymakers who are pressured to act now and ask questions later. An example of the "precautionary principle" poorly applied was cited by Roger Bate, Director of the European Science and Environment Forum, in *The Wall Street Journal Europe* (September 5).

In the early 1990s the Peruvian authorities stopped chlorinating their water supplies because of environmentalists' claims that chlorine was carcinogenic. Cholera then flourished in the chlorine-free water, infecting a million people and killing 10,000.

The message is that we must all work hard to assemble enough of the jigsaw for the true picture to emerge. That is what the chemical industry is doing, worldwide, in collaboration with academics and governments on the serious issue of endocrine modulation.

If the research currently under way confirms that there is a problem, the industry is committed to act swiftly if the evidence points to synthetic chemicals.

Yours faithfully,
E. G. FINER,
Director General,
Chemical Industries Association Ltd,
Kings Buildings,
Smith Square, SW1,
September 12.

Bubonic plague

From Professor D. M. Palliser

Sir, It is quite right for Ian Murray to alert us to the renewed danger of bubonic plague (report, September 5), but a pity that current medical research still has to co-exist with hoary myths about the pest.

Plague in Britain did not fade because the Great Fire of London "destroyed the unsanitary conditions" in which it spread.

The fire devastated the City, where plague was becoming less virulent, but not the slumier outer suburbs, where mortality was much higher; and of course the fire could have had no effect on other towns still suffering in the 1660s.

No completely satisfactory solution has yet been offered, but any such explanation will have to account for the disappearance of plague from most of Europe, not just Britain, between the 1650s and the 1720s.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PALLISER
(Professor of Medieval History),
University of Leeds,
School of History,
Leeds LS2 9JT,
September 8.

The personal touch

From Mr T. Mannion

Sir, I read with alarm that Abbey National wants to encourage its Instant Plus account holders to use "hole-in-the-wall" machines or telephones to do their business rather than over-the-counter transactions (report, September 3), all in the name of greater use of technology and efficiency.

Efficiency for whom? Fewer customers entering branches will lead to a reduction in staff and the very important personal touch will be lost. A smile, a nod, someone to share a moment of fun or pain. I can only transact with a hole-in-the-wall. I cannot tell a machine that I am happy or sad or have a problem, and expect a personal response.

Not for everyone

From Mrs Susan Gaisford

Sir, The Arts for Everyone scheme mentioned by Richard Morrison (September 5; see also letter, September 10), has proved an expensive disaster in my case.

Having been assured that my laboriously prepared submission on a ballet project, which involved hiring a theatre, was "one of the best applications received" I awaited the decision with reasonable hope. I rang the Arts Council several times after the deadline (end of June) to be told that it was unable to discuss an individual case. By now, my project had reached a critical phase, and I went ahead.

On July 23, I was advised that my application had failed: one of my referees had not supplied the necessary reference in time. The referee, from the Royal Academy of Dancing, assured me that he had supplied it well within the deadline and provided a copy, but the Arts Council refuses to reconsider the case.

Yours unhappily,
S. F. GAISFORD,
Amberley,
2 Sotherton Lane, Sudbrooke, Lincoln.
September 11.

In this age of greater technology, there is still a deep-rooted need for human contact. The need to be there and to do something, such as bringing flowers to London following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, is not only important but necessary.

The Princess had that human touch and identified with the people she met, shaking hands with an AIDS victim or sitting a child on her knee.

The outpouring of grief indicates to me that people of this country need, and indeed crave, the personal touch: technology can never be a substitute for this.

Yours sincerely,
T. MANNION,
26 Amanda Road,
Rainhill, Prescot, Merseyside.
September 3.

Stopped clocks

From Commander Owen Jenkins, RN (ret'd)

Sir, My experience of Cork railway station is similar to that of Mr Lowndes's grandad (letter, September 8).

Soon after the Second World War our minesweeper was in Cobh harbour. On Saturday night a small band of us set off by train for Cork for a look-see.

On arrival, I asked the guard the time of the last train back to Cobh. He pondered, "Well now, about what time would you lads be wanting to go?"

"About half-past nine," I chanced. "Right then. Come and tell me when you are all aboard and then we'll be off."

And so it turned out.

Yours faithfully,
OWEN JENKINS,
10 Elizabeth Court,
Kirkley Cliff,
Lowestoft, Suffolk.
September 8.

Study in contrasts

From Mr N. J. Inkley

Sir, The Archbishop of Canterbury goes to the TUC conference to champion employees' rights against their employers (report, September 10; letter, September 12). Meanwhile, he presides over the steady eradication of the parson's freehold and a synodical provision summarily to remove from office and disqualify churchwardens who do not fit in with their bishops' wishes.

It's a funny old world isn't it?

Yours,
NEIL INKLEY,
6 Knot Lane,
Walton-Le-Dale, Preston, Lancashire.
September 12.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Obscure Windows as objects of desire

From Mr David Garfield

Sir, In his article, "Snakeoil, software and Gates" (September 10; see also article, August 26 and letters, September 5), Anatole Kaletsky joins the conspiracy brigade who claim that Microsoft and Intel between them have cooked up an artificial demand for their wares by adding gimmicks to processors and software.

I have been a PC user since 1983 and have constantly been amazed at the increased productivity brought by improvements in software and hardware. I believe that added software capability and improved processor power have revolutionised many people's working lives.

Kaletsky wants market forces to bring down prices and stabilise standards, but hardware prices have already plummeted in real terms. A top-performance PC costing £3,500 two years ago is an entry-level machine now, at less than £850.

No one is obliged to upgrade his PC. The software continues to work irrespective of the price and performance of the machines in the shops. It is the desire for the latest and most productive that fuels demand, not Bill Gates.

A modern computer is, of necessity, an extremely complex apparatus. The processing power on your desk today is many times that of a computer which was the size of a double-decker bus in 1960. There is no comparison with a television or a telephone.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID GARFIELD,
29 Orchard Avenue, N3,
September 10.

From Mrs S. G. Webb

Sir, I am a typist with vast experience. In the good old days, I would spend two hours taking shorthand and the rest of the day typing back anything up to 60 different letters of varying lengths. I have never been able to achieve more than 50 standard letters in a day using a PC. I put it down to all the time spent on naming and saving documents without, it seems, any real purpose. The paperless office is still a myth as, owing to numerous disasters, nobody quite trusts the computer.

The habitual PC user would never go back to the typewriter because, secretly, we all love the "spellcheck". However, the typewriter is still to be found in many offices, as many forms, particularly those used by the legal profession, have obviously been designed with the goose-leather quill in mind. It is difficult enough to load them into a typewriter and impossible to use them in a printer.

I agree with your correspondent (September 5) that we are still in the dark ages of IT technology, the users having to negotiate a tricky path between the Luddites, the break-downs and the nerds.

Yours faithfully,
SUSANNA G. WEBB,
84 Buxton Street, E1,
September 5.

From Emeritus Professor Richard Goss

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky should not be surprised either at the expense or the nature of his new Microsoft computer installation. As an economist he should know that the usual effects of a monopolistic position are high costs and the inefficiency he has observed.

Both are frustrating to the consumers. Thus, the instruction books veer from the patronisingly childish to incomprehensible techno-babble. Much of the system is badly designed, with numerous duplications, errors and inconsistencies. For example, mine tells me that "travelling" is misspelt unless it has a capital T, though it has no reservations about "travel" and "travelled".

Part of the trouble may be that, as much of this material is sold through shops or small computer firms, very little of this criticism is fed back to Microsoft. Without sufficient competition to induce reform, this may continue. What we need are systems which serve the consumers, sensibly explained. They will not appear until Microsoft learns something of how to teach.

Sincerely,
RICHARD GOSS,
1 Weir Gardens,
Pershore, Worcestershire.
September 6.

Over there

From Colonel J. A. Baker

Sir, Will someone explain to me how British Midland, or for that matter any other airline, can fly from Heathrow "to Europe" ("Rewarding Times", September 9)?

Yours faithfully,
TONY BAKER,
Wykeham Lodge, 9 Harnwood Road,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.
bakertony@aol.com
September 9.

Help needed

From Miss Diana A. Bond

Sir, I am one of those obsessed with being in therapy (article, September 10). Is there anyone I can talk to about it?

Yours faithfully,
DIANA BOND,
The Garden Flat, 3 Heath Villas,
Vale of Health, Hampstead, NW3.
September 11.

NEWS

Hague sparks row over Princess

The political truce over the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, ended abruptly yesterday when William Hague accused Tony Blair of making capital out of the tragedy. The Conservative leader accused Downing Street of shabby politics by briefing the media on the Prime Minister's advice to the Royal Family after the Princess's death. Pages 1 and 2

Judges to be denied free rein

The Government's plans for Britain's first Bill of Rights in 300 years will preserve Parliament's supremacy and deny judges power to strike down statutes that are inconsistent with human rights. But a key question in the White Paper for a Human Rights Bill, expected towards the end of next month, will be whether courts will be able to declare Acts of Parliament "invalid" if they are inconsistent with human rights. Page 1

Dignity at No 10

Constitutional experts praised Tony Blair yesterday for behaving with dignity after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. There was praise, too, for the way he observed the conventions governing relations between Downing Street and the Palace. Page 2

A son is born

Three years after emerging from a gruelling regime of chemotherapy which left her infertile, Gill Garnham has a baby son, Frederick. Page 3

March of time

A senior American army officer has produced a controversial list of the hundred most influential military leaders of all time — including Adolf Hitler and Saddam Hussein. Page 4

Handel museum

An extraordinary collection of Handel manuscripts and memorabilia has been acquired for a new museum. Page 5

Peace talks

For all the last-minute manoeuvring, the peace negotiations opening at Stormont today are widely seen as the best chance of resolving the conflict in Ulster since partition in 1921. Page 6

Assault law review

The much-criticised catch-all criminal law on assault is to be scrapped in a government review. Page 8

Dilemma without horns

Animal rights activists are trying to close America's only bullfighting school — where, instead of facing a raging bull, students armed with wooden swords fight an instructor waving a pair of horns and snorting loudly. The Humane Society claims this still desensitises people to the "cruelty actually suffered by a bull in a ring". Page 14

Church anger at Blair

The Prime Minister's rejection of the Church of England's two candidates to succeed the Right Rev David Sheppard, Bishop of Liverpool, could strengthen calls for disestablishment. Page 9

Vetting Labour

A system of vetting all Labour candidates for the Scottish Parliament and the proposed Welsh Assembly will be a model for Labour parliamentary candidates. Page 10

Vichy secrets

The French Government is to allow greater access to wartime archives, including details of co-operation between officials and the Gestapo. Page 11

Euro pressure

Pressure has increased on Britain over the European single currency after European Union finance ministers decided to speed the calendar. Page 12

Revenge raid

Two Israeli soldiers were ambushed and killed in south Lebanon yesterday in revenge for the deaths on Friday for the son of an Hezbollah leader. Page 13

Clinton minefield

President Clinton has been accused by a former senior adviser of siding with President Castro of Cuba and Libya's Colonel Gaddafi by failing to join the global fight against landmines. Page 14



Three-year-old Bernice Graham from Surrey frames a shot at the annual parade of the British Morgan Horse Society in Hyde Park

BUSINESS

Share probe: The Stock Exchange is investigating share transactions in Stagecoach by the husband of Ann Gloag, its co-founder and director. Page 48

Rail bonanza: Railtrack is set to anger the Government after revelations that it has made at least £200 million more from property dealing than it estimated in its flotation prospectus. Page 48

Handout by BG: BG is to buy back £1 billion worth of its shares only a week after deciding to cut 2,500 jobs. Page 48

Pension boost: Scots could get improved pensions if the country's new Parliament decides to use its fiscal powers following last week's "yes" vote on devolution. Page 45

ARTS

Endangered buildings: The World Monuments Fund publishes a list of the 100 most endangered sites from Mesa Verde National Park in Colorado to the Alexander Palace in St Petersburg. Page 18

Final Proms: The Last Night of the Proms ended, predictably, while on the penultimate night Colin Davis conducted the Verdi Requiem in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales and Sir Georg Solti. Page 18

Men of the moment: Oasis launch their British tour with a gig in Exeter that shows they have learnt a thing or two about live performance. Page 19

Poor start: The Royal Opera sets up shop in the Barbican with a disappointing production of Handel's *Giulio Cesare*. Page 19

MIND AND MATTER

Sniff out romance: Scientists cannot agree whether human beings have the right equipment to pick up the scent of lust. Page 15

Wrap it up: A nutritionist has a novel way to reduce litter — eat the wrapper, too. Page 15

Awkward customer: Dr David Walsh stalks supermarkets in a personal crusade. Page 16

Wise drinkers: Dr Thomas Sutcliffe explains how moderate amounts of alcohol can help to ward off cardiac disease. Page 17

LOTTERY NUMBERS

1, 2, 5, 31, 32, 40. The bonus ball was 44. Two ticket-holders won the jackpot of £9.1 million.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

ARTS

Richard Patterson and other young British artists go on show at the Royal Academy

LAW

Does the Family Law Act 1996 provide better protection against domestic violence?



The American Kelsey Grammer, star of TV's *Frasier*, makes a debut on British radio in *Book at Bedtime* (Radio 4, 10.45pm). A series of documentaries by emerging directors opens with *Picture This* (BBC2, 9.30pm). Page 46

Princess and politics

There are dangers for both party leaders in managing the future of the monarchy. The Prime Minister, in particular, will find that the demands on his time are immense and the path perilous. Page 21

Rifle at the door

If Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness take refuge in equivocation and euphemism and Sinn Féin is incapable of accepting the principle of consent, then the question of whether Mr Trimble might talk to republicans face to face becomes academic. Page 21

Some talk of Alexander

Most of the generals who make Colonel Lanning's top 20 ranking would be on any considered list: Charlemagne, Cortes, Attila the Hun, Peter the Great and even Eisenhower were military leaders whose exploits redraw many a boundary on the map. Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Scottish nationhood would be strengthened — something most English people accept. Welsh nationhood would be confirmed and the English nation would be divided into petty regions. Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

So much nonsense has been written about the creation of a new Britain that I have longed for a George Orwell to prick the plethora of pretensions. Page 20

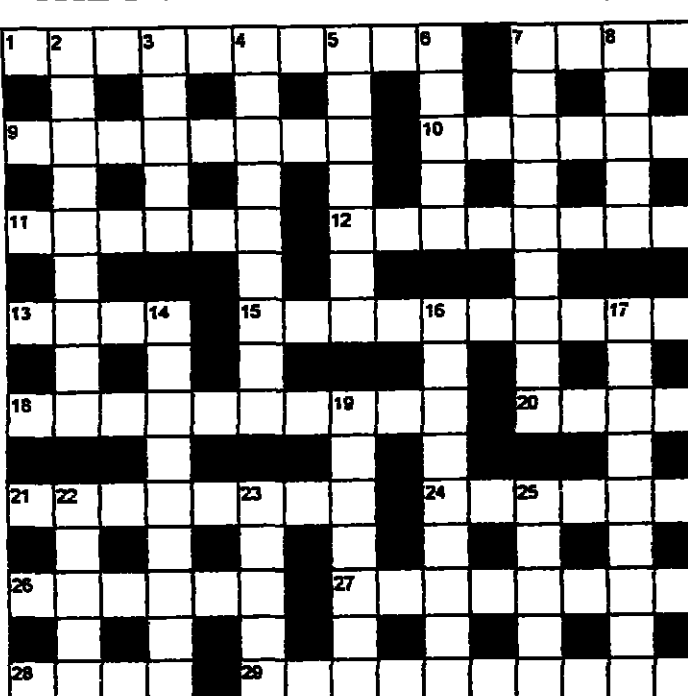
Rachel Campbell-Johnston

If the young British artists had made their reputations challenging establishment views, they increasingly found themselves with nothing to smash against. Page 20

LETTERS

Trial by media: M15 and CND: pros and cons of Microsoft Windows. Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,585



- ACROSS
- Youth gets a little money to cover grants (10).
 - Line from European pottery centre showing skill (4).
 - Francis protest gets murderer sent (5).
 - Quiet conduct in one so forceful (6).
 - Means of measuring the flow of juice (6).
 - Source of illumination for animal transport reportedly going to fair (3,5).
 - Swallow hard as promotion's put back (4).
 - A son reading to secure University entrance — that's normal (2,5).
 - Support worker previously in service (4).
 - The way in which tree is lopped, initially (4).
 - Retreated from lines in the light of danger (8).
- DOWN
- Calls heard in court for release (3,5).
 - Damage one M2 junction (6).
 - Shock treatment inflicted in religious orders (8).
 - Way to meet the old viewer's complaint (4).
 - Bond sure to render me liable to tax (10).
 - Rivers harbouring marine rodent in America (4,5).
 - Fail to catch duck set free (5).
 - Treated a red skin with penny ointment (9).
 - Squeeze making opponents for contracts buckle under (7).
 - Subject of the Crown in charge (5).
 - Forced departure of single vessel in gloomy surroundings (9).
 - Saucy novel (5).
 - Walk for miles before East European turned up (9).
 - Fragrance of elder once scattered around (9).
 - Sauna made adjustable to an extreme degree (2,7).
 - Listener who's critical of one's accounts (7).
 - Openings provided by employer's magnanimity touched old worker (5).
 - Cancel credit in advance (5).
 - Destination in France for excursions (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,584 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

FORECAST

General: England and Wales mostly fine after early fog clears, with sunny spells, and after a cold start it should soon warm up. Wales and northern Wales and northwest England mostly cloudy with a brisk wind, and occasional rain. Scotland, Northern Ireland and South Republic unsettled and windy with rain, heavy at times. Brighter with showers in northern and central Scotland later. Tonight, N Scotland will have a few showers. S Scotland, N England, N Wales and N Ireland will have rain. Central and southern districts will have a fine cold night with fog patches. □ London, SE, East S, E, SW, West N England, E Anglia, Midlands, Ch, I, E, Early mist and fog should clear, then fine and sunny with scattered cloud. Cold start, soon warming up. Moderate SW wind. Max 17C (63F). □ Wales, NW, NE England, Lakes, I, I, Cloudy and breezy, a few bright spots. Intermittent rain, especially in afternoon and evening. Fresh SW wind. Max 16C (61F). □ Borders, E, W, D, E, Cloudy, rather

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Anglo	12	0.01	17	60	5	Leeds	11	0.01	16	61	5
Aber	12	0.01	15	50	5	Leuch	11	0.01	16	61	5
Belfast	12	0.01	17	60	5	London	11	0.01	16	61	5
Birmingham	12	0.01	17	60	5	Manchester	11	0.01	16	61	5
Bristol	12	0.01	17	60	5	Newcastle	11	0.01	16	61	5
Burnley	12	0.01	17	60	5	Nottingham	11	0.01	16	61	5
Cardiff	12	0.01	17	60	5	Sheffield	11	0.01	16	61	5
Exeter	12	0.01	17	60	5	Sunderland	11	0.01	16	61	5
Falmouth	12	0.01	17	60	5	Torquay	11	0.01	16	61	5
Glasgow	12	0.01	17	60	5	Wrexham	11	0.01	16	61	5
Harrogate	12	0.01	17	60	5	York	11	0.01	16	61	5
London	12	0.01	17	60	5						

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sunrise: 6.25 am. Sunset: 5.35 pm. Moon sets: 6.30 pm.

NEWSPAPERS RECYCLING

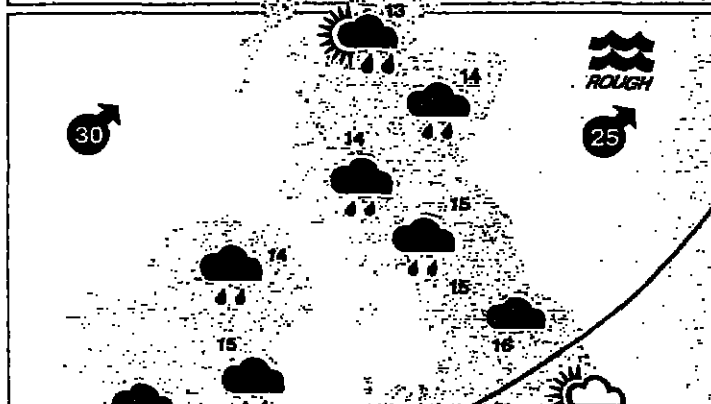
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DON'T GRIN AND BEAR IT...

...now your health insurance premiums no longer attract tax relief. WPA's Service Centre offer four ways to keep private health affordable.

WPA Western Province Association FREECALL 0500 41 42 43

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon. Low E moves northwards with similar pressure, while low F moves east and lifts. Low P moves in. High E expected to drift slowly eastwards.

TODAY

Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	11	0.01	16	61	5	Leeds	11	0.01	16	61	5
London	11	0.01	16	61	5	Leuch	11	0.01	16	61	5
London	11	0.01	16	61	5	London	11	0.01	16	61	5
London	11	0.01	16	61	5	Manchester	11	0.01	16	61	5
London	11	0.01	16	61	5	Newcastle	11	0.01	16	61	5
London	11	0.01	16	61	5	Nottingham	11	0.01	16	61	5
London	11	0.01	16	61	5	Sheffield	11	0.01	16	61	5
London	11	0.01	16	61	5	Sunderland	11	0.01	16	61	5
London	11	0.01	16	61	5	Torquay	11	0.01	16	61	5
London	11	0.01	16	61	5	Wrexham	11	0.01	16	61	5
London	11	0.01	16	61	5	York	11	0.01	16	61	5

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Guernsey, 20C (68F); lowest day temp: Sofia, 10C (50F); highest rainfall: South Uist, Hebrides, 9.5mm; highest sunshine: Farnborough, Kent, 11.8h.

RNLI RESCUE UPDATE - 15 SEPTEMBER 1997

Total number of lives saved so far this year: 544

Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 2,307

Cost to taxpayer: £193,000

To make a donation, telephone: 0800 543210

Lifeboats. RNLI. Not a charity. Registered in England.

Reg. Charity No. 218011

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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

PULLING RANK

Tim Henman serves notice of further British advances in the world of tennis
PAGE 26

THE FUTURE OF CRICKET

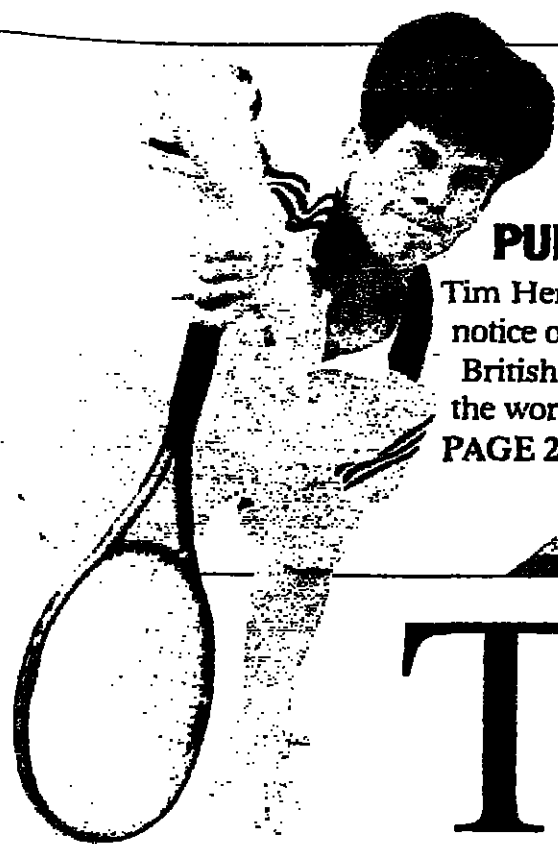
Two-page special report
PAGES 30 and 31

PLUS

Warwickshire are Sunday best
PAGE 28

WATFORD GAP YEARS

Graham Taylor is back in his element, fighting for a common cause
PAGE 35



TIMES SPORT

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 15 1997

ANOTHER GOAL SPREE EXPOSES ENGLISH DEFENSIVE FRAILTIES

Leeds bar Rovers' return to top

LEEDS UNITED	BLACKBURN ROVERS
Gallacher (8)	Wallace (3, 11)
Sutton (16, pen)	Molenaar (8)
Dahlin (33)	Hopkin (23)
Attendance: 21,956	

By OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THERE is something about Ewood Park this season that seems to spread a wonderful sort of defensive anarchy through its combatants. On their last appearance here, Blackburn Rovers crushed Sheffield Wednesday 7-2 to establish themselves at the top of the FA Carling Premiership. Yesterday, though, they lost their chance to regain the leadership assumed by Manchester United on Saturday when they were undone by 45 minutes of first-half madness of their own.

Leeds United, renowned as the most parsimonious of teams, might be unlikely partners for a seven-goal thriller but they played their part to the full yesterday. They went 2-0 up in the first six minutes, conceded two more before the game was a quarter of an hour old, then scored two more by the time the half reached its midway point. George Graham, the Leeds manager, and one of the game's defensive sticklers, admitted afterwards it had all sent a shiver down his spine.

Home truths for Newcastle 32
Champions fail to hit peak 33
Birmingham slip up 34
Taylor's rehabilitation 35

To add to the general sense of chaos, the referee, Steve Dunn, booked seven players, six of them from Leeds, sent off the visitors' left-sided midfielder, Harry Kewell, in the 78th minute for the second of two trifling offences and ignored two penalty claims by Blackburn that even Graham admitted he thought appeared to be valid.

"We came as close to winning as it is possible to do when you concede four goals," Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn manager, said. "But we played very well, we scored three and we are still second in the table. You have got to look at the positives."

Graham, predictably, had taken rather different messages from the goal glut. "We have lost the art of defending in this country," he said. "There is a lack of good defenders in the games I have watched so far. There is a lot of hype about how great all these goals are. It might be great if you are a forward but it does not say much for the standard of defences."

The scoring had started in the third minute after Dahlin lost the ball in midfield and Hopkin hit a



Molenaar, left, and Halle combine to bring down Dahlin at Ewood Park yesterday, but the Blackburn striker's appeals for a penalty go unheeded. Photograph: Neal Simpson

long ball towards Kewell on the left wing. With a deft touch, Kewell eluded the challenge of Valery and hit a high cross to the far post where Kelly rose above Hendry and directed a downwards header towards goal. Flowers could not hold it and when it spilled from his hands, Wallace poked it over the line.

Three minutes later, Leeds' second attack led to a corner. Kelly drove it in from the right and when it eluded two Blackburn defenders, it dropped to Molenaar, who volleyed it almost casually into the top corner of the net. "Ooh-aah Molenaar," the Leeds supporters sang through their happy disbelief. It was too good to last, though.

A minute later, Molenaar fell from grace. Back in his central defensive role, the Dutchman met an innocuous deep ball hit hopefully towards the Leeds penalty area with a weak defensive header. It fell to Gallacher and the Blackburn forward took it on his chest and lashed a fierce drive past Martyn from 25 yards out.

After what amounted to a hiatus in a game like this, an eight-minute spell punctuated only by a shot from Dahlin that thudded into the pit of Martyn's stomach, Blackburn grabbed an equaliser. Dahlin took the ball with his back to goal and wriggled past Molenaar who brought him down as he headed towards the byline. Sutton

smashed the resulting penalty into the net for his seventh goal of the season.

With parity restored, Blackburn could have been forgiven for thinking that they had regained the initiative but, in the seventeenth minute, Kewell, a fine left-sided midfielder player from Australia, who will be 19 next week, went on a mazy dribble down the left flank before slipping a pass to Wallace. Wallace ran across the edge of the area and fired his right-foot shot unerringly into the roof of the Blackburn net.

Still, the two teams refused to let the frantic pace of the game let up. In the eighteenth minute, Dahlin was denied what looked like a clear

penalty when he was brought down from behind by Halle. To emphasise his disgust and make his point he flung his boot, which had been ripped off his foot, down on to the floor.

By the time he pulled it back on, Leeds were claiming a penalty of their own at the other end. Wallace outpaced Hendry down the right and as he shaped to shoot, Hendry lunged at him and did not appear to make any contact with ball as he brought him down. The referee awarded a corner.

Five minutes after that, though, a flick from Wallace in the centre circle started Hasselbaink off on a jinking run down the left. He held off the Blackburn defenders as they

were drawn towards him and then slid a ball across the edge of the area to Hopkin who was unmarked and with space aplenty. Hopkin steadied himself and fired his right-foot shot across Flowers and into the bottom right-hand corner of the goal.

In the thirtieth minute, Blackburn were denied another penalty when Molenaar, who was becoming increasingly rash and ragged and was booked for the last in a long line of fouls on Sutton, blatantly pushed Dahlin as he chased a bouncing ball. Again, the referee waved play on.

Three minutes later, though, Blackburn gained some measure of compensation when Bohinen

hooked a low ball into the area and Dahlin turned Molenaar and hit a left-foot shot across Martyn and into the far corner.

After that, the second half was a desert of chances by comparison. Only Gallacher, who sidefooted Filicraft's volleyed centre into the side-netting in the 78th minute came close to grabbing an equaliser. The damage had already been done.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T. Flowers — P. Valery (sub: A. Anderson, 80min), S. Henchey, C. Hendry, J. Kenna — K. Gallacher, G. Filicraft, L. Bohinen (sub: I. Sherwood, 71), J. Wallace (sub: D. Duff, 71) — C. Sutton, M. Dahlin.
LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N. Martyn — G. Halle, R. Molenaar (sub: A. Ribeiro, 46), D. Wetherall, D. Robertson — G. Kelly, D. Hopkin, L. Radebe, H. Kewell — R. Wallace, J. Hasselbaink (sub: D. Lilley, 80).
Referee: S. Dunn.

What can we do for you?

EQUESTRIANISM: CLEAR ROUND ENABLES GREAT BRITAIN TO RETAIN EUROPEAN THREE-DAY EVENT CROWN AFTER DRAMATIC DAY AT BURGHLEY

Fox-Pitt's flawless finale earns team title

By Jenny MacArthur

A FAULTLESS final show-jumping round from William Fox-Pitt on Cosmopolitan, the winners of the individual bronze medal, enabled the Great Britain three-day event team to retain its overnight lead and win the Burghley Pedigree Chum Open European championships yesterday by 12.4 points from New Zealand.

The success, sorely needed after the disappointing showing at the Olympic Games last year, was Britain's second in succession at these championships and the fifteenth since they started in 1953. The four riders — Fox-Pitt, Mary King, Ian Stark, and Christopher Bartle — were the victors.

DETAILS

BURGHLEY PEDIGREE CHUM OPEN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS. 1. Great Britain 160.20pts, 2. New Zealand 270.5, 3. Sweden 274.60, 4. France 270.5, United States 270.60, 6. Germany 284.20. Individual: 1. Broadbent News (M Todd, NZ) 44.20, 2. Watnall Stream (B Overesch-Boker, Ger) 44.60, 3. Cosmopolitan II (W Fox-Pitt, GB) 45.20, 4. Ready Teddy (B Tait, NZ) 50.50, 5. Bounce (V Jeffers, NZ) 53.80, 6. General Jock (K Gilford, GB) 55.0. European medal table: 1. Great Britain 2. Sweden, 3. France. Individual: 1. Watnall Stream, 2. Cosmopolitan II, 3. General Jock.

on Star Appeal. Ian Stark, on Arakai, and Christopher Bartle, on Word Perfect — drew prolonged applause from the packed arena. "It's just a relief to have proved that we are still able to beat the rest of the world," Fox-Pitt said. Mark Todd, whose outstanding cross-country round on Broadbent News was one of the highlights of the event, won the individual title. It was the New Zealander's first individual medal in any championship event since 1988, the year he won the second of his two Olympic golds. Despite joking that he and his 14-year-old horse were in "the twi-

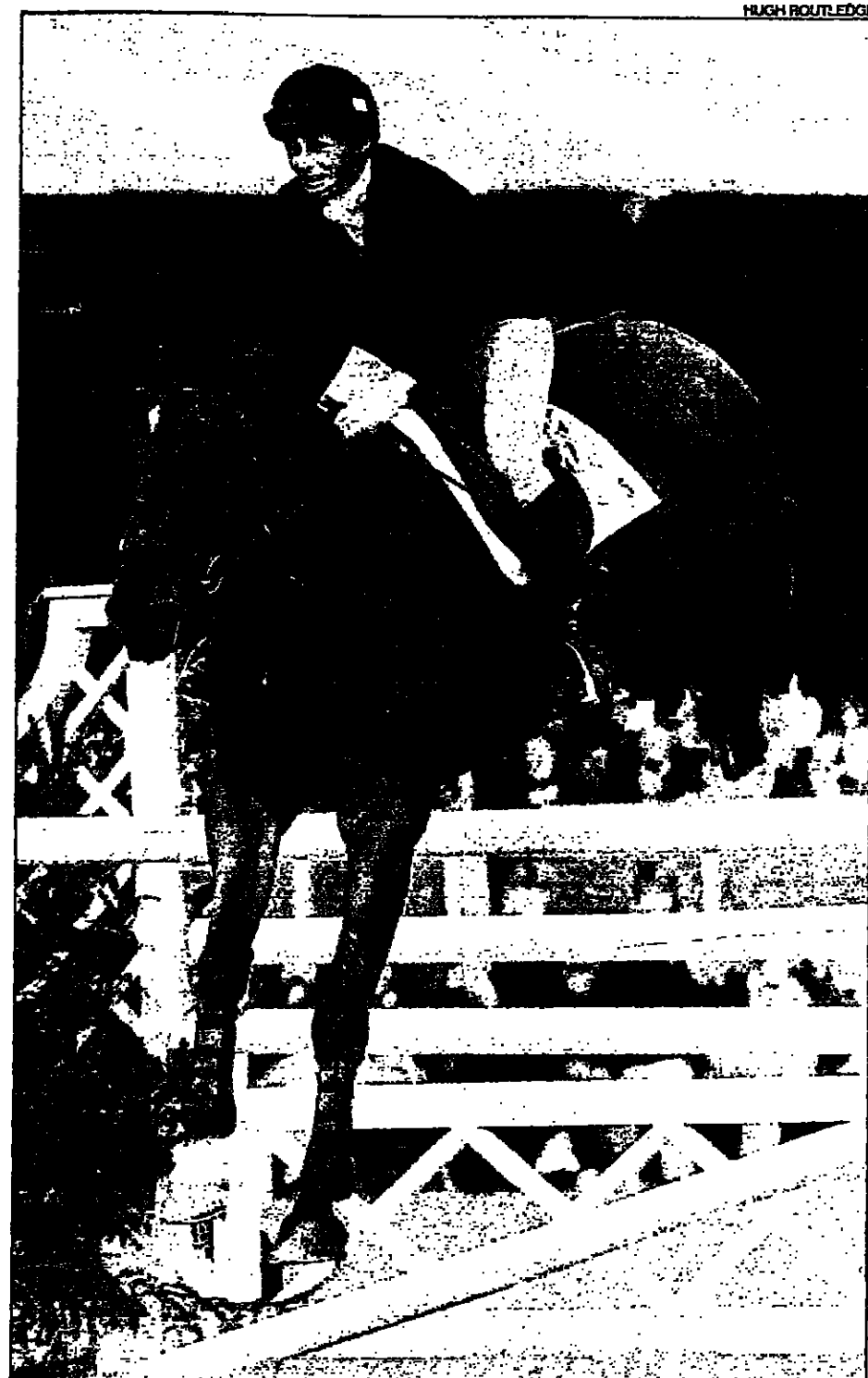
light" of their career, few who witnessed his performance this weekend gave that any credence.

Bettina Overesch-Boker, of Germany, whose polished showjumping round reflected the training that she has received from Frank Sloth-Haak, the world showjumping champion, took the individual silver medal on her English thoroughbred, Watnall Stream, after finishing 0.4 points behind Todd. Based with the Australian rider, Andrew Hoy, at Gatcombe Park, Overesch-Boker, a regular member of the German team since 1993, also becomes the European champion.

The tension grew yesterday even before the final show-jumping phase. The cross-country on Saturday had featured a demanding course. Although 40 of the 77 starters had no jumping faults and 11 were clear inside the time, it inevitably produced some sort of horse for the final morning inspection.

Australia, the Olympic champions and lying third overnight, had to withdraw after losing two members. Hoy's Darren Powers, sixth overnight, was not presented, and Phillip Dutton's Sky's Prospect did not pass. Britain supporters then held their breath when Cosmopolitan had to trot up twice before being passed. Had he failed, Bartle's high score would have been counted and Britain would have dropped to third.

New Zealand were less fortunate. Andrew Nicholson's Dawdle was not presented, which meant that they had to include the higher score of their fourth team member, Sally Clark. This gave Britain a 32.4-point lead at the start of the showjumping, the equivalent of six fences. Sweden



King, a member of the victorious Great Britain team, goes for gold on Star Appeal

moved into third place, ahead of the United States and France.

However, having dominated the dressage and cross-country phases, Britain began to look vulnerable. King and Star Appeal, faultless pathfinders on Saturday, incurred ten penalties. Ian Stark and Arakai, also faultless across

country, followed suit. New Zealand, meanwhile, produced three clear rounds, from Blyth Tait, on Ready Teddy, Clark and Todd.

Fox-Pitt, who had saved the day on Saturday with his superb clear round, found himself once again in the hot seat. The last to go, he knew that he could not afford to

have more than two fences down, but Cosmopolitan, a ten-year-old owned jointly by Anne Andrews and Fox-Pitt's sponsors is not without a sense of occasion. Responding to his rider's assured touch, he jumped faultlessly round the 12-fence course to be greeted with a deafening roar as he landed safely over the last.

Courses built to terrify without adding to risk

SIMON BARNES



At Burghley

It is a sour feeling deep in your gut and everyone who has anything to do with horses knows it. It is something to do with fear, which is a totally inadmissible concept. We don't talk about it, still less think about it. So it manifests itself in this clinging, skeletal hand in the viscum.

I felt this familiar creature more than once as I walked the cross-country course for the Open European championship at Burghley. Vicariously, needless to say. This was a frightening course: it had been designed to frighten. But then the redoubled grip of the hand in the gut: Claire Smith, a Canadian rider, had been injured in a fall. She had been taken to hospital by helicopter with cranial and spinal injuries. It followed the death the previous week at Blenheim of the Irish rider, Sam Moore. He was killed when his horse fell on top of him. At least yesterday there were encouraging signs that Smith would make a recovery.

I had felt the clutch of fear when I inspected the fence where Smith fell: fence three, the leaf pit log. It looked just a little bit like a jump off the edge of the world: a very hard question to ask so early in the course, before a horse has come to terms with what he is about.

There was an easier, more time-consuming route at this fence, exactly as there should be on a decent course.

Ian Stark, the British rider, said that clearing fence three — the direct way — was, as it were, the breaking of the sound barrier. Horse and rider grew and blossomed in the exhilaration of the subsequent challenges once this steep leap into nothing had been completed.

There was an awed and relieved feeling from riders afterwards. Some said they felt that at times "Mike had got a bit carried away", this being Mike Tucker, the course designer. And this particular fence, followed by a precipitous descent into the leaf pit itself, followed by a

climb and a truly horrid fence at the top, one that was all air, in dapple shade, made for a course that would give Centaur a touch of the skeletal hand.

Tucker himself wrote in the programme, after describing four, five and six: "It is against my better judgment to present these questions so early in the course and therefore make it more difficult to create a good rhythm, but this is a championship."

Colonel Frank Weldon, former course designer at Bad-

round, you are disqualified and cannot take part in the showjumping that decides the final placings. Also, the sport tests a relationship between horse and rider that normally takes years to establish. To knacker your horse is to lose a massive investment time. Even in purely sporting terms, macho does not pay.

But the fact is that this is a very dangerous sport. All the horse sports are: dressage also injures and kills. Technology, in the form of proper head gear and body protectors, certainly helps, but anyone who swings a leg over a horse knows that this is not a sensible option in life. There are people addicted to risk, adrenaline junkies. You don't find many of these in the horse world. Horse people tend to be addicted to horses. The risk is there, unavoidable, and each chooses his or her level of risk.

It is a terrible job, to be a course designer, a truly frightening responsibility. Until the event begins, no one knows how a course will ride, how a fence will jump. The ideal course, which is bogglingly terrifying and perfectly safe, is something to which all course designers aspire, knowing that it is forever unattainable.

I would not blame the course designer for the injury, still less the sport itself. The coincidence of the death at Blenheim, followed by this terrible fall at Burghley, is the stuff of nightmare. The way forward is not to be gung-ho, nor to be apologetic. The sport must learn from every accident, and strive to make every course still more safe, still more frightening.

At Lion Bridge, I watched Stark take the direct route over the log and the long, steep drop into the water, a left-hand turn, to jump over a floating boat. Patting and patting the hard neck of his young beast, Arakai, perhaps the best even he has ever ridden, a shark-like grin on his face — fierce exhilaration, fierce concentration, ferocious joy.

'The coincidence of the death at Blenheim followed by this fall is the stuff of nightmare'

BOXING

McCreesh earns world title chance near home

GEOFF MCCREESH, the British welterweight champion, will be given a chance to challenge for a world title (Srikumar Sen writes). After his successful defence on Saturday in London — when he stopped Paul Ryan, of Hackney, in two rounds — Frank Warren, the promoter, said McCreesh would be meeting the winner of the World Boxing Organisation title bout between Michael Löwe, of Germany, and Michael Carruth, of Ireland, which takes place in Aachen next Saturday.

Warren was hoping to put on McCreesh's challenge before the end of the year, but as the boxer is getting married in November in Antigua, the contest will take place in January or February, possibly in the North East. McCreesh lives in Bracknell but comes from Stock-

ton-on-Tees. "He's a good fighter if his connections can keep him focused — and he sells tickets," Warren said. "They are telling me to take the fight up to Teesside."

Outside the ring, McCreesh has no interest in boxing, preferring to play golf and "be with the lads". His manager, Jim Evans, said: "He won't even talk about boxing, or watch it." McCreesh, whose mother was killed in a car crash just before his British title bout with Kevin Lueshing in July, said: "I don't know anything about boxing and I find boxing boring when I'm not fighting."

The bout with Ryan was a one-sided affair. McCreesh proving too strong for the challenger, who had been knocked down with a flurry of blows in the second round.

SAILING: MORNING GLORY BREEZES TO VICTORY WITH HER KITE UP

Plattner masters the Mistral

FROM EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT
IN PORTO CERVO

THE Mistral wind brought the Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup to a breezy conclusion yesterday with up to 37 knots blowing down the Sardinian coast, as Hasso Plattner's Reichel-Pugh 80-footer, *Morning Glory*, sealed her win in the IMS division, managing to get round the course with her mast in one piece.

Only six of the IMS class yachts completed the windward-leeward course, with casualties including Jim Dolan's *Sagamore*, which broke her boom, and Roberto Roemmer's *Alexia*, which had problems with her mainsail and sailed most of the course under headsail alone. Overall second place on the day went to Mike Slade's *Longobarda*, which got round without incident.

Morning Glory, which has broken her mast four times in the past 12 months, most recently off the Isle of Wight shortly after the start of the Channel Race, reached speeds of more than 22 knots as she surfed downwind with Plattner at the wheel. Undercut by mast failures in more moderate conditions, he reportedly told his crew: "We are here to race so we are going to go with the kite up."

Despite winning the Rolex Cup, the headline trophy at the regatta, the 22-strong crew on the sleek, blue-hulled, Sydney-Hobart record-holder seemed nonplussed by their victory, having come to Porto Cervo with their thoughts focused on the ILC Maxi world championship. This was settled on Saturday, when Larry Ellison's *Sayonara*, with Chris Dickson at the wheel, clinched her fourth win of the series to take the title with a

race to spare. *Morning Glory*, with Russell Courts on tactics and many of the New Zealand Team Magic crew on board, finished second overall, with *Alexia* third. In truth, the fact that the ILC championship is being run in conjunction with the Rolex Cup for the first time has completely overshadowed the cup.

In the other divisions being contested here, the four-strong 100 class for yachts over 100ft long was won by George Lindemann's two-masted schooner, *Adela*, with Dennis Conner guesting on the wheel. Second was Luca Bassani's innovative *Wallygator*, with the big cruiser, *Never Say Never*, third.

The cruising division had a seemingly ridiculous outcome when the Italian yacht, *Rose Selay*, won from Irvine Laidlaw's *Highland Fling*, even though she appeared not to have been entered in it from the beginning.

CYCLING

Zulle turns up power to take Tour of Spain lead

ALEX ZULLE, the world time-trial champion, from Switzerland, took the overall lead in the Tour of Spain, which he won last year, after the ninth stage time-trial at Cordoba yesterday (Peter Bryan writes). He had started the 35-kilometre ride against the clock in third place overall, 14sec behind his compatriot, Laurent Dufaux. The trial was won by Melchior Mauri, Zülle's Once team colleague, in a time of 41min 11sec. Zülle was fourth, 38sec slower but sufficiently fast to wrest the lead from Dufaux.

Chris Boardman, who won the world championship silver medal behind Zülle in 1996, had been expected to win the stage, but he had been forced to retire from the 22-day race on the mountainous climb to Sierra Nevada on Friday. Boardman now has three weeks in which to

recover and lead Great Britain in this year's world championship time trial, over 44 kilometres, at San Sebastian on October 9.

Graeme Obree, who hopes to be one of the other two British riders selected for the championship, regained his Scottish ten-mile record in the Wallacehill trial with a time of 19min 29sec, an improvement of 12sec on the 19min 41sec set by James Gladwell last month.

Obree remains the fastest ten-miler (18min 27sec) in Britain and he will ride the British Cycling Federation's 26-mile time-trial on September 28 in a final selection attempt for the world event. "I believe that I am racing as well as I ever have," he said. "Twice the world pursuit champion and twice holder of the world one-hour record, he must therefore be in good form."

ATHLETICS: DISAPPOINTMENT FOR MCCOLGAN AS HALF-MARATHON IS BOOSTED BY RECORD ENTRY

Great North Run gets back on right track

By David Powell
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IN THE early years of the Great North Run, the joke was that the sight of 20,000 people crossing the Tyne Bridge in mass exodus from Newcastle could mean only one thing. There must have been jobs going in South Shields. "Things have got better in the North East since then," John Caine, the race organiser, said. He might have added that his event now mirrors the energy of the area.

Yesterday, in the seventeenth running of this annual half-marathon from Newcastle to South Shields, record numbers took to the road. Five years ago, the event began to show signs of wasting away, dropping from a peak of 32,900 entries in 1991 to 26,800 in 1994. This year, 36,576 applicants were accepted.

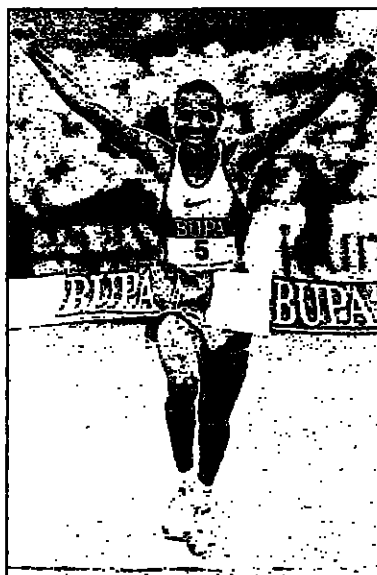
This is the modern face of the Great North Run, which has shed its parochial costume for a national one. A drive to recruit runners from outside the North East has been so successful that, for the first time, all 120 postal districts of Britain were represented.

Not that sheer numbers can stop runners posted from Africa. Lucia Subano, from Kenya, won the women's race. Hendrick Ramaala, from South Africa, the men's. Strong westerly winds aided fast times, though both course records remained intact. Grete Waitz's 68min 49sec and Benson Masya's 60min 2sec.

Subano, a mother-of-three, pulled away from Marian Sutton in the



McColgan: suffered defeat in event for the first time



Ramaala: broke away from the field to win in fast time

eleventh mile to win in a time of 69min 24sec. Sutton, finishing ahead of her fellow Briton, Liz McColgan, for the first time in any race, improved her best by two minutes, to 69min 41sec. McColgan, having won three times, lost her unbeaten record in the Great North Run, finishing third in 70min 8sec.

Sutton defends her Chicago Marathon title five weeks hence and, though not deceiving herself into thinking that

she is fitter than she is — "We had the wind behind us for 12 miles" — she was delighted. "I am in better shape than this time last year," she said.

Ramaala, like Subano, took flight from his last challengers along the seafront, the mile where the wind blew into their faces. He spared the race the embarrassment of a non-invited athlete winning the title. Up with those wearing the elite low numbers was Willy Cheruiyot, a Kenyan sporting

No 29,840. Not only was Cheruiyot not paid to compete, he sent in his £14 entry fee. Ramaala recorded 60min 25sec, Cheruiyot 60min 43sec. Behind Sammy Korir, another Kenyan, was Paul Evans, in fourth place, the first British finisher.

Evans also has a Chicago Marathon title to defend and, though he possesses a faster time, he regards the 60min 18sec that he recorded yesterday as his best legitimate performance over the distance and his best in seven goes at the Great North Run.

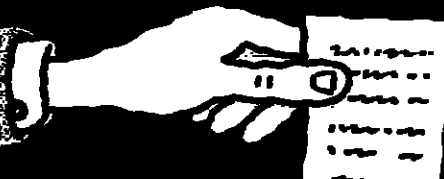
The ten-miles split for Evans was 26sec quicker than his best for a ten-mile race. His run, he said, had boosted his confidence for Chicago, especially as he finished ahead of Jon Brown, Britain's European cross-country champion, who will make his marathon debut there.

Brown suffered an early stitch, followed by a stomach spasm at eight miles, where he was forced to slow down. He finished a disappointed sixth in 61min 49sec. "Hopefully, it was just a one-off," he said.

When numbers entering the Great North Run began to fall, it was a consequence of incorporating the world championships in 1992. "We frightened people off," Brendan Foster, the race founder, said. "They were saying: 'It is no longer the race we loved.'"

The emphasis is back on fun now and the introduction of an exhibition, pasta party and bands at every mile along the route has developed the event from a race into an occasion.

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Captaincy brings best out of Curran

By BARNEY SPENDER

NORTHAMPTON (Northamptonshire won toss) beat Leicestershire by five wickets

SHANE WARNE, who is considering offers from three other counties, remains many people's favourite to lead Northamptonshire next season, but Rob Bailey and Kevin Curran, the two local candidates, did their chances no harm at the weekend.

On Saturday, Bailey, the incumbent, batting in pain because of a broken finger, stayed for 20 overs to deny Leicestershire a championship victory. Yesterday, Curran took over the reins and with a fluent innings of 78 not out led Northamptonshire to their third success in the Axa Life League in the last eight days.

After Wells had removed Fordham in the second over of the Northamptonshire innings, Curran came out to join Montgomery in the quest for the 180 needed to win. By the time Montgomery, on 69, had sent a lofted drive to Mason at 28 overs, they had added 144 in 28 overs.

Sales followed shortly afterwards and the Leicestershire bowlers applied a late squeeze, but Curran saw his side home. Dropped by Mason when 33, a straightforward chance at mid-off, and hit a painful blow on the hand by Dakin, Curran was at his dogged best. His fifty, which came from 64 balls, included five fours and two sixes, one each off Brinson and the unfortunate Mason.

Earlier, Tony Penberthy pegged back Leicestershire, picking up three wickets as they slipped from 60 for one to 99 for six.

CRICKET: FINAL-DAY AXA LIFE LEAGUE FLOURISH ERASES MEMORY OF NATWEST TROPHY FAILURE

Warwickshire find life after Lord's

By IVO TENNANT

EDGBASTON (Warwickshire won toss) beat Gloucestershire by 71 runs

A WEEK after Warwickshire were utterly unable to give Essex a game in the NatWest Trophy final, they succeeded in winning the Axa Life League. Although they were dependent on Kent losing at Headingley, their all-round cricket was a considerable improvement on their performance at Lord's. Nick Knight managed at Lord's, a thoroughly proficient century and Allan Donald, given an ecstatic send-off by a sizeable crowd, was too much for Gloucestershire.

The prize-money that Warwickshire will receive, £42,000, will not exactly go a long way towards the £300,000 needed to install floodlights here on a permanent basis. This triumph, though, their seventh trophy in five years, will hasten the day.

Save for Knight's century, this was not a notable match. As with the day-night event here in July, the sense of anticipation and the spectacle was what counted. The crowd knew what was happening at Headingley, although in the early stages of Gloucestershire's innings, a Warwickshire victory was far from assured. Hancock and Daw-

TABLE

	P	W	L	T	N	Pts	R
Warwickshire (4)	17	13	4	0	0	32	14.14
Kent (10)	17	12	4	1	2	48	1.89
Leicestershire (9)	17	10	4	1	2	48	1.89
Gloucestershire (12)	17	9	5	1	2	42	1.71
Surrey (1)	17	9	5	0	3	42	1.66
Somerset (5)	17	9	5	0	4	40	1.31
Essex (17)	17	9	6	1	1	40	1.31
Worcestershire (8)	17	9	6	1	1	38	1.87
Northampton (9)	17	8	6	0	3	38	1.76
Yorkshire (3)	17	8	7	1	1	38	1.76
Gloucestershire (18)	17	7	6	0	4	36	1.01
Nottingham (2)	17	7	7	0	3	34	1.01
Gloucestershire (13)	17	5	9	0	3	28	1.01
Derbyshire (11)	17	4	9	0	4	24	1.04
Hampshire (15)	17	5	11	0	1	22	1.04
Gloucestershire (7)	17	3	10	1	3	22	1.04
Durham (18)	17	3	13	0	1	14	1.27
Sussex (14)	17	2	13	0	2	12	1.67

(Last year's positions in brackets)

son put on 43 for the first wicket and there were the likes of Young and Alleyne to come.

Their middle-order, however, was ineffectual. Nobody reached 30. Small, who needs physiotherapy to enable him to bowl these days, gave little away and neither did the spinners. Smith and Giles, who finished with four wickets. So, too, did Donald, who was mobbed as he left the field and who flies home to South Africa, and a hectic international schedule, today. The public address announcer, like everybody else at Edgbaston, trusts that he will return after the World Cup in 1999.

Donald would like to extend his career in county cricket, fitness permitting. He said that he hoped to continue in the employ of Warwickshire.

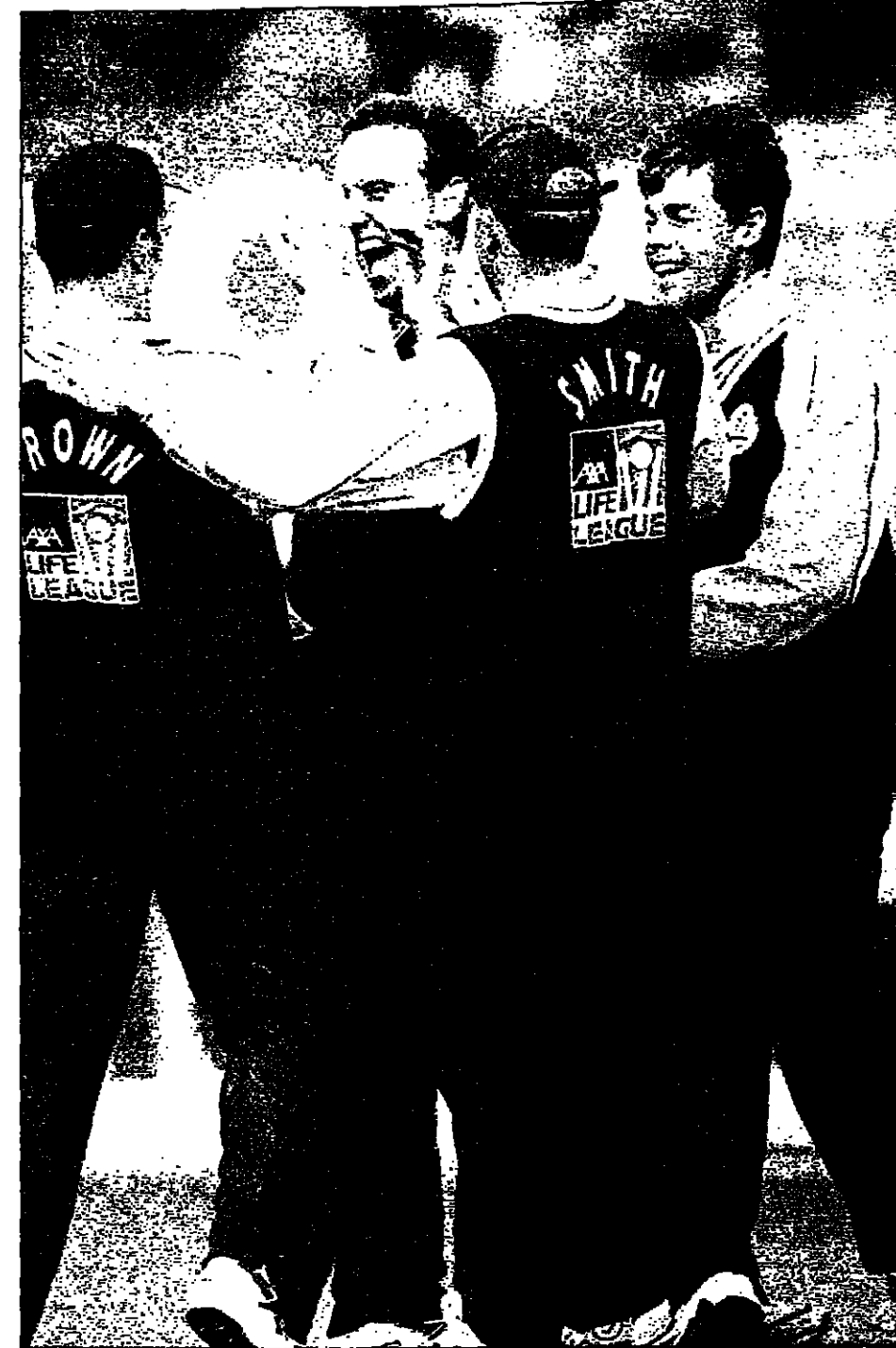
after he retires "to give them something in return for what they have given me". He also hopes, naturally enough, to be granted a benefit by the club. "Alan has been the best overseas player in England over the past ten years and we decided he was the right person to receive the trophy," Neil Smith, the Warwickshire-acting captain, said.

Warwickshire's innings was given the ideal start by Knight and Smith, who put on 89 in 16 overs. The newly-appointed captain of England A became the first batsman to score a century in the Sunday league for his county this season.

Until Knight was run out for 102 by Hancock's direct throw, his judgment was impeccable. He rarely resorted to anything unorthodox, although the six that he swung into the River Rea, over what used to be the Holford Stand, was the kind of shot that he reserved for the one-day game. He reached his century, which came off 119 balls and included seven fours, with the nearest of leg glances.

The rest of Warwickshire's batting was unexceptional. For a side that have looked dispirited in the past week, all too aware that they would not become county champions, Gloucestershire fielded with considerable zeal. Ball ran 30 yards to take a catch over his shoulder off his own bowling and Davis, the substitute, held a fine tumbling catch at short mid-wicket to account for Ostler.

Yet a total of 221 for six was sufficient. In years gone by, when this competition has not been decided until the final Sunday, a helicopter has hovered between two grounds. Yesterday, the powers-that-be at Axa Life took the trophy to Headingley and brought a mere fake to Edgbaston. For the crowd of around 9,000 here, that was of scant concern. The genuine prize arrived some time later by car.



Donald, second left, is congratulated after taking another wicket yesterday

Moody has to concede second best to Clarke

By RUPERT COX

WORCESTER (Worcestershire won toss) beat Derbyshire by five wickets

A FINE all-round performance by Tom Moody, the Worcestershire captain, was not enough to prevent Derbyshire from sneaking home by five wickets and with eight balls to spare. His exploits were upstaged by a dazzling innings of 69 not out by Vince Clarke that proved the catalyst for Derbyshire's fourth Axa Life League win and denied Worcestershire a fourth-place finish and a prize of £5,250.

It proved to be quite a day for Moody. On winning the toss, he opened the innings, scored a forthright century, bowled his overs wisely, whereupon he left the field. Perhaps, with some justification, he felt he had earned his leave. He did not return to view the damage Clarke inflicted upon his bowlers.

The day was equally as poignant for Tim Curtis, who, after a career spanning 19 years, bade farewell to New Road to concentrate on his teaching. In conjunction with his captain, Worcestershire chugged along at four an over until Curtis was bowled by Clarke. He left to a rousing ovation, just shy of 6,500 Sunday runs.

Moody continued with Graeme Hick as his accomplice, striking his second fifty from 39 balls before he fell in the final over.

Derbyshire were quickly into their stride but, after Moody dismissed both openers, the innings lapsed. However, in this dismal Derbyshire season, Clarke offered some respite, steering them home after a match-winning stand of 87 with Kim Barnett.

Glamorgan succumb weekly

By SIMON WILDE

CARDIFF (Glamorgan won toss) beat Essex by six wickets

THERE was a decidedly so-wash air to events at Sophia Gardens yesterday — as betokens a match between teams who had not won in the Axa Life League for almost two months. Not, of course, that that was the reason. A crowd of 1,500 suffered the autumn winds to whet their appetites for Thursday, Taunton and the championship that beckons.

Matthew Maynard stood down from the game, but was on the ground and spent the

afternoon being lionised. With Croft, Waqar Younis and Watkin also resting, Glamorgan put out a side of near-anonymous strength. They were no match for Essex, who, rather unfairly in the circumstances, included Stuart Law, who was in his usual hurry to get on with things.

With his side chasing 169, Law snipe two fours off the hapless Parkin's first over, two off his second and took the lion's share of the 19 that came off his fourth. He raced to his fifty in 34 balls and when he was out for 59, Essex were left with a straightforward task. Glamorgan had gone along

fine while Dale and Cottey were together, but once Dale fell for 62, the innings subsided in a flurry of swipes and heaves. Such was the main beneficiary, picking up, five wickets in four overs to claim Sunday-best figures.

Essex have little to feel pleased about. Despite winning the NatWest Trophy, this has been a painful summer. The cause is the injuries to Cowan seen specialist on Thursday — the truth that they have missed the runs of Cowan, who has spent the past few days with his old muckers, savouring the camaraderie for a last time.

Johnson's masterclass fails to bring reward

LORD'S (Middlesex won toss) beat Nottinghamshire by one run

PAUL JOHNSON gave a wonderful masterclass in one-day batting yesterday, making a century from 66 balls without appearing to force the pace (John Stern writes).

Unfortunately for Nottinghamshire, his dismissal, caught at long-off by Angus Fraser off Paul Weekes, caused a middle-order collapse that left Wayne Noon needing to score three of the last ball from Keith Dutch. He managed only a single and Middlesex won their first

Axa Life League match since May 18.

Owais Shah, who scored a maiden century in the championship game, was Middlesex's top scorer, remaining unbeaten on 66, his highest score on a Sunday, as they made 231 for four. Earlier, Paul Weekes and Mark Ramprakash had put on 104 for the first wicket.

John Jameson, the MCC cricket secretary, resumed umpiring duties at Lord's yesterday after Barrie Leadbeater, who had been due to stand, returned home after the death of his wife in a car accident near Leeds.

Durham's disaster continues

By DEREK HODGSON

CHESTER-LE-STREET (Somerset won toss) Somerset beat Durham by seven wickets

THIS fixture had to compete with the Great North Run — on television — and Sunderland's win at Birmingham — on television — so a crowd of 2,000-plus on a cool and cloudy day to watch Durham's obsession with avoiding bottom place was a marketing triumph. The Sunday audience's relative indifference to technique is a help.

Two divisions in the Sunday League, or new National League, cannot come quickly

enough. September has become a dreary month for those counties outside the top four. Six up and six down would set fire to the dream.

Somerset, seventh at the start, ambled through the afternoon, using seven bowlers. Ben Trott, 22, a local recruit, made a good impression.

More words have been written about the disaster that is Durham's batting than about the sinking of the *Titanic* and this episode was little different. Andrew Caddick and Mushtaq doing most of the damage. Jon Lewis making 57 off 44 balls and Martin

Speight 50 off 70. David Boon was out again when looking settled and Nick Spink rattled around with the tail. The pitch was neither as flat nor as even as is expected on Sunday.

Set to score 206, Somerset lost their openers for 16 before Simon Ecclestone reached his Sunday best for this summer, 96 not out off 98 balls, including three sixes. Mark Lathwell, joining him to put the icing on the cake, four overs to spare. The sigh of relief came with the news that Sussex had lost.

The county winning the Sunday League gets £42,000 — Fabrizio Ravanelli's weekly wage.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Axa Life League

Durham v Somerset
CHESTER-LE-STREET (Somerset won toss) Somerset beat Durham by seven wickets

	P	W	L	T	N	Pts	R
Durham (10)	16	7	4	5	4	35	2.11
Somerset (5)	16	7	4	5	4	35	2.11
Warwickshire (4)	17	13	4	0	0	32	14.14
Kent (10)	17	12	4	1	2	48	1.89
Leicestershire (9)	17	10	4	1	2	48	1.89
Gloucestershire (12)	17	9	5	1	2	42	1.71
Surrey (1)	17	9	5	0	3	42	1.66
Somerset (5)	17	9	5	0	4	40	1.31
Essex (17)	17	9	6	1	1	40	1.31
Worcestershire (8)	17	9	6	1	1	38	1.87
Northampton (9)	17	8	6	0	3	38	1.76
Yorkshire (3)	17	8	7	1	1	38	1.76
Gloucestershire (18)	17	7	6	0	4	36	1.01
Nottingham (2)	17	7	7	0	3	34	1.01
Gloucestershire (13)	17	5	9	0	3	28	1.01
Derbyshire (11)	17	4	9	0	4	24	1.04
Hampshire (15)	17	5	11	0	1	22	1.04
Gloucestershire (7)	17	3	10	1	3	22	1.04
Durham (18)	17	3	13	0	1	14	1.27
Sussex (14)	17	2	13	0	2	12	1.67

Hampshire v Sussex

SOUTHAMPTON (Sussex won toss) Hampshire beat Sussex by two wickets

	P	W	L	T	N	Pts	R
Hampshire (15)	17	5	11	0	1	22	1.04
Sussex (14)	17	2	13	0	2	12	1.67
Warwickshire (4)	17	13	4	0	0	32	14.14
Kent (10)	17	12	4	1	2	48	1.89
Leicestershire (9)	17	10	4	1	2	48	1.89
Gloucestershire (12)	17	9	5	1	2	42	1.71
Surrey (1)	17	9	5	0	3	42	1.66
Somerset (5)	17	9	5	0	4	40	1.31
Essex (17)	17	9	6	1	1	40	1.31
Worcestershire (8)	17	9	6	1	1	38	1.87
Northampton (9)	17	8	6	0	3	38	1.76
Yorkshire (3)	17	8	7	1	1	38	1.76
Gloucestershire (18)	17	7	6	0	4	36	1.01
Nottingham (2)	17	7	7	0	3	34	1.01
Gloucestershire (13)	17	5	9	0	3	28	1.01
Derbyshire (11)	17	4	9	0	4	24	1.04
Hampshire (15)	17	5	11	0	1	22	1.04
Gloucestershire (7)	17	3	10	1	3	22	1.04
Durham (18)	17	3	13	0	1	14	1.27
Sussex (14)	17	2	13	0	2	12	1.67

Northamptonshire v Leicestershire

NORTHAMPTON (Northamptonshire won toss) Northamptonshire beat Leicestershire by five wickets

	P	W	L	T	N	Pts	R
Northamptonshire (9)	17	8	6	0	3	38	1.76
Leicestershire (9)	17	10	4	1	2	48	1.89
Warwickshire (4)	17	13	4	0	0	32	14.14
Kent (10)	17	12	4	1	2	48	1.89
Leicestershire (9)	17	10	4	1	2	48	1.89
Gloucestershire (12)	17	9	5	1	2	42	1.71
Surrey (1)	17	9	5	0	3	42	1.66
Somerset (5)	17	9	5	0	4	40	1.31
Essex (17)	17	9	6	1	1	40	1.31
Worcestershire (8)	17	9	6	1	1	38	1.87
Northampton (9)	17	8	6	0	3	38	1.76
Yorkshire (3)	17	8	7	1	1	38	1.76
Gloucestershire (18)	17	7	6	0	4	36	1.01
Nottingham (2)	17	7	7	0	3	34	1.01
Gloucestershire (13)	17	5	9	0	3	28	1.01
Derbyshire (11)	17	4	9	0	4	24	1.04
Hampshire (15)	17	5	11	0	1	22	1.04
Gloucestershire (7)	17	3	10	1	3	22	1.04
Durham (18)	17	3	13	0	1	14	1.27
Sussex (14)	17	2	13	0	2	12	1.67

Worcestershire v Derbyshire

WORCESTER (Worcestershire won toss) Worcestershire beat Derbyshire by five wickets

	P	W	L	T	N	Pts	R
Worcestershire (8)	17	9	6	1	1	38	1.87
Derbyshire (11)	17	4	9	0	4	24	1.04
Warwickshire (4)	17	13	4	0	0	32	14.14
Kent (10)	17	12	4	1	2	48	1.89
Leicestershire (9)	17	10	4	1	2	48	1.89
Gloucestershire (12)	17	9	5	1	2	42	1.71
Surrey (1)	17	9	5	0	3	42	1.66
Somerset (5)	17	9	5	0	4	40	1.31
Essex (17)	17	9	6	1	1	40	1.31
Worcestershire (8)	17	9	6	1	1	38	1.87
Northampton (9)	17	8	6	0	3	38	1.76
Yorkshire (3)	17	8	7	1	1	38	1.76
Gloucestershire (18)	17	7	6	0	4	36	1.01
Nottingham (2)	17	7	7	0	3	34	1.01
Gloucestershire (13)	17	5	9	0	3	28	1.01
Derbyshire (11)	17	4	9	0	4	24	1.04
Hampshire (15)	17	5	11	0	1	22	1.04
Gloucestershire (7)	17	3	10	1	3	22	1.04
Durham (18)	17	3	13	0	1	14	1.27
Sussex (14)	17	2	13	0	2	12	1.67

Sussex are condemned to last place

By PAT GIBSON

SOUTHAMPTON (Sussex won toss) Hampshire beat Sussex by two wickets

SUSSEX fought it out to the very last ball, but in the end they had to accept the Axa Life League wooden spoon when Simon Renshaw, with one final desperate heave, mowed Keith Newell to the long

THE FUTURE OF CRICKET: EVOLUTION OR REVOLUTION? THE EXPERTS GIVE THEIR VIEW AS THE FIRST-CLASS GAME STANDS AT THE CROSSROADS

Counties should reject folly of status quo

THIS should have been the day when county cricket updated and upgraded, a day to celebrate. It still could be. Regrettably, it seems ever likelier that it will produce nothing more enlightening than a reprise of the counties' unshakeable trust in tradition.

Before them at the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) will be an opportunity to give the county championship an overdue conversion, making it more appealing to the watcher and more purposeful to the player. Two divisions, with promotion and relegation for three counties each season, is at last a viable option. The chances are that they will spurn it and that a majority — narrow, perhaps, but nonetheless damningly decisive — will flock like frightened rabbits to a burrow of stale familiarity.

These conservative clubs will hide behind the usual conveniences, such as the preferences of members, the fear of losing sponsors and the dread of sinking into some mythical morass of insolvency and inadequacy. Some such reservations hold water and require attention, but most are the imaginings and scare-mongering of those with no will for any development that may threaten their safe, shallow tranquillity.

There are four options available today to the 18 counties and MCC, who make up the First Class Forum. Only two are likely to attract any support and, in all probability, the vote will be something like 11-8 in favour of what the board likes to call an enhanced status quo, a euphemism for grabbing at the chance to leave things alone.

The six Test-playing clubs will support two divisions, as will Worcestershire, but it needs two more of those still open to persuasion to step into the radical corner and produce a 9-9 tie among the counties. If this were to occur,

ALAN LEE



Cricket Correspondent

I understand that MCC would consider themselves compromised by any suggestion of a casting vote and abstain. Then, perhaps, the decision would fall to the chairman of the board, Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, whose backing for two divisions is now public.

It is a moot point, one contested fiercely by some

counties, whether MCC should retain a say in issues such as this. Their own view is also in doubt as, I understand, the MCC cricket committee endorsed the idea of two divisions, but the club's delegates may be mandated differently now that the softer option is available.

This scheme was dreamt up by the executives of the ECB once they had convinced themselves that it would not be prudent to install only two divisions as an alternative to the original, three-conference proposal in "Raising the Standard". Within it, the four-day championship will continue precisely in its present form.

The board has given it some garnish, some pretence of being bright and different, by suggesting that the top eight teams in the championship would have the "incentive" of qualifying for an extra competition the following season. Grandly, this would be called the Super Cup and comprise a 50-overs knockout guilelessly designed for television, its relevance to the championship unfathomable.

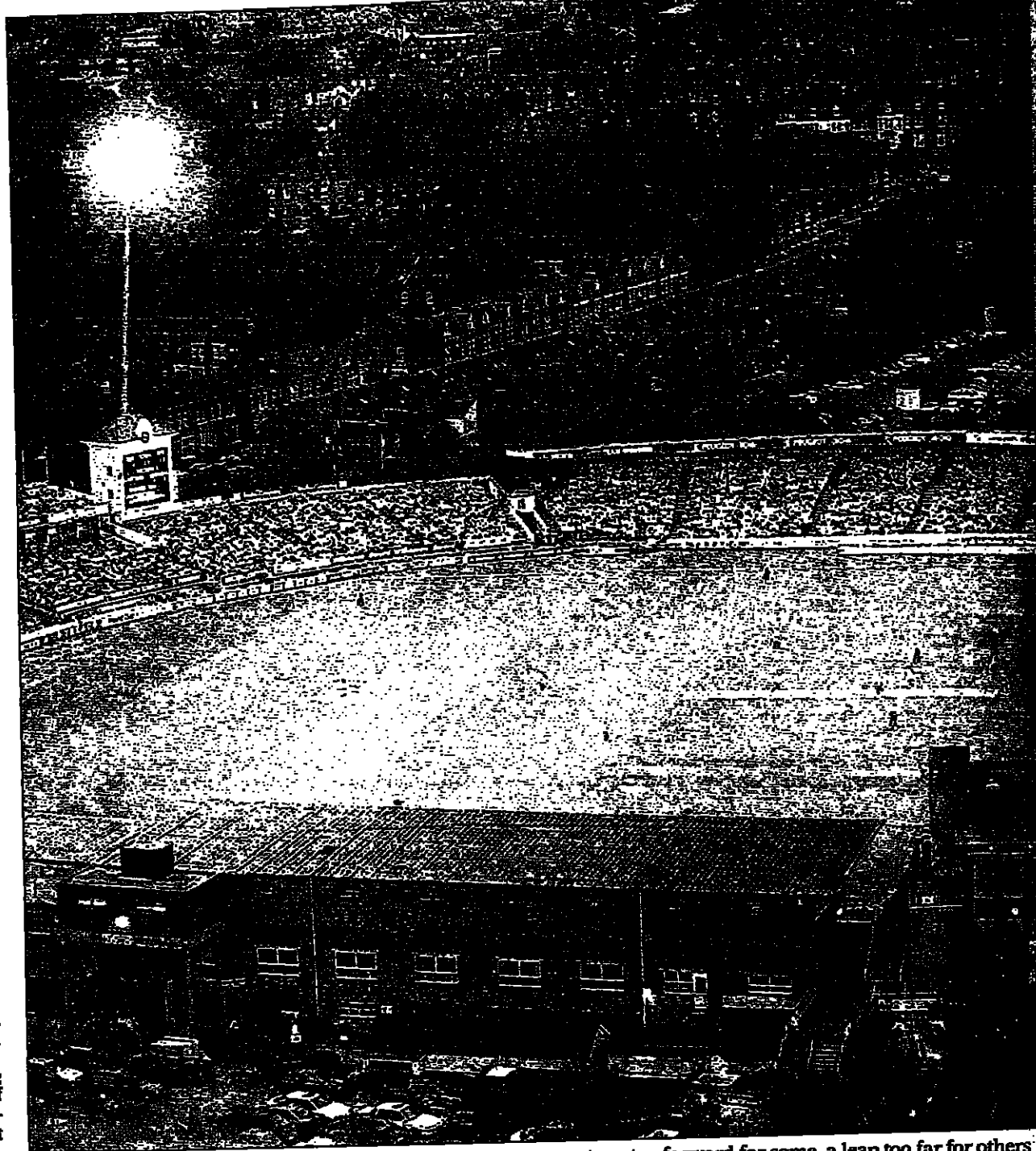
As a motivational reward for those who excel at four-day cricket, this is a transparent absurdity. The proposal is for no change, in macabre fancy dress, and more than half the counties are preparing to breathe a sigh of relief and embrace it. They will guard the all-play-all, 18-team league on the basis that it has performed noble service. They will oppose divisions because they fear marginalisation. Both provisos are fatally flawed.

The championship worked when there was nothing else around it, no one-day competitions claiming attention and fewer rival sports. Now it needs a revamp, something to give it back its profile. It is a nonsense to claim, as many do, that the closeness of the title race this year is a justification for no change. It is not the top end that is sick, it is the middle and lower reaches, where clubs have no incentives and where, from August onwards, the subconscious takes over, damaging attitude and performance.

Surrey's display against Lancashire last week was indicative of this. Interestingly, it left them eighth in the table. Would they have played such spineless cricket if such a result, and consequent drop, had put them in the relegation zone?

Similarly, games involving clubs in that netherland of twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth places tend to drift aimlessly. But if the twelfth-best team in the country was third in a second division, and therefore gained promotion, what an edge it would give to such fixtures.

Hopefully, whatever decision is made today will not mean that the county game is unaltered. There is no sign of opposition to the plans for one-day cricket, which involve the abolition of the Sunday league and Benson and Hedges Cup and the institution of a



Enlightened approach: floodlit cricket at Edgbaston represents a step forward for some, a leap too far for others

50-overs National League, played on a fixture list of flexible days. This is rightly seen as an improvement: it was also destined to make the long-needed reduction from three to two one-day competitions, until the appalling Super Cup raised its head.

The great majority of the blueprint produced, six weeks ago, by Lord MacLaurin and

his chief executive, Tim Lamb, will also be endorsed today. Quite right, too. Diligently prepared, its scope is vast and its potential benefits, in a more coherent structure conducive to the modern game, are immense. Omissions, such as central contracting of England players and, on another level, the abolition of the demeaning and counter-productive bene-

fit system, can and must be addressed separately.

It would be shameful if the thrust of the blueprint was lost, or its lower-level measures threatened, other than by the local difficulties already occupying the northern leagues and second XIs. It remains a monumental document and the game will be the better for it.

If Lord MacLaurin's preference for a two-division championship is defeated, however, there will inevitably be an impression of failure, one that will permeate to the chairman himself. He may consider this a rebuff of his methods and question whether his position is tenable. If so, the counties will have done themselves a second disservice.

Wells honed on competitive edge

THE PROFESSIONAL'S VIEW

Through the rose-tinted reality of his new existence, Alan Wells is vicariously aware of the suffering he has left behind. While Wells has experienced the high life of county cricket this year, with his new club, Kent, pursuing the championship and Sunday league to their conclusion, the county that reared, promoted and finally rejected him is destined to finish bottom of both.

The irony is thought-provoking and Wells shakes his head at the enormity of it. He had not wanted to leave Sussex, indeed had never considered the possibility, but when a sense of pride and injustice drove him to move, he did not envisage how his career would be revitalised and his cricketing perceptions transformed.

It has put him in a peculiarly privileged position to compare the extremes of the county game and to give a players' view on the structural alternatives to be voted on tomorrow. His personal priorities are that cricket must be reduced in volume but increased in competitiveness, and that it must be played on substantially improved pitches.

A year ago, Wells was captaining Sussex through a depressing run-in. They lost five of their last six championship matches and finished in the no man's land of twelfth place. Then they sacked him. "Considering I had given my whole career to the county, I think I deserved more respect," he said.

He discovered he was still a

marketable commodity, obtaining a five-year contract with Kent and a rented cottage in the chocolate-box village of Chilham. "But it was a greater upheaval than I had anticipated and it was only a few weeks ago, while I was batting against Essex, that I looked around Canterbury and felt it was home," he said.

Now, for the first time in his career, he is playing in a team sustaining success. At Hove, he became injured to dead months at the end of each season, when his toughest job was to convince those around him that there was something worth playing for. Such lethargy is the bane of the game and Wells appreciates the point all the more now that his circumstances are different.

"I have never completed a season in an atmosphere like this, when every ball means so much, when every day feels like a cup final," he said. "I've had too many seasons ending in mid-table or worse, when, as captain, it is hard to motivate players, no matter what you do. I used to tell them to approach the last two games as if they were the first two of the next season, but it was only a device."

"You drag yourself out of bed when your team is struggling and there is nothing left to play for. When there are trophies to be won, you look forward to every day. Bodies ache all the time at this stage of the season, especially among the fast bowlers, but when you are trying to win the



Wells would welcome less cricket but more meaningful matches, played on better pitches

championship you happily put up with it."

Wells believes that the "dead-month syndrome" must be addressed and would happily endorse a two-division system. "It would make things more competitive, give almost every club something to aim for each year," he said. "I also believe we should not be scared of creating an elite. We spread our talent too thinly in this country."

His overriding concern is the amount of cricket. "We have got to protect our England players so they are

freer for Test cricket," he said. "When I look at Dean Headley and Darren Gough, the schedules they have and the injuries they pick up, I feel we should be doing more for them. We must stop being so parochial. We need a structure framed around our Test players, because without a decent Test side we have not got a championship."

Wells is anxious about pitches — "a subject that needs to be put back on the agenda, because they are not improving at all" — and about second-team cricket. "They should

play fewer games, over four days on proper pitches," he said. "They need more time between games to correct techniques and they need to feel that every game matters."

At Sussex, I heard 19-year-olds meaning because they had another day's cricket to play. We'll get nowhere with a structure that creates that kind of attitude. For a man enjoying the champagne days of his career, he has not forgotten what life is like at the beer-and-sandwiches end.

ALAN LEE

Why competition without equal must be retained

JOHN WOODCOCK



argues against change for change's sake

IT SEEMS as though something not unlike the status quo in the county championship will have prevailed when the "multitude of senators" make their way home from Lord's tonight. If so, let no one despair. It will mean, simply, that evolution will have been preferred to revolution, and there is no shame in that. To many, myself included, it will come as a relief.

No one could have done more to find the best way ahead than Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth. The soundings that he and his team have taken have been painstakingly thorough. The pity would be if changes were to be made for change's sake. The three-conference idea, propounded in the original blueprint of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) but since rejected, smacked of that.

The concept of two divisions, with promotion and relegation, has obvious attractions, but we shall be getting it in an extended one-day competition. It may come one day to the championship itself. If it does, and so long as four sides go up and four go down, no county should be out of some sort of contention long enough to threaten their existence. We must not have the likes of Sussex going to the wall; they have produced too many splendid and colourful cricketers for that. Players who are the very essence of our game.

It is all too easy to argue that England's problems are rooted in the county structure. In times of scarcity, it is standard

practice to say so; and the system does, of course, have its defects. Those closest to the action say that towards the end of every season, sides that are out of the reckoning for honours tend to go through the motions.

The way to resurgence, however, lies not in mortification, nor through harassment, whether by administrators of players or by players of players. After the recent one-day wrangle between Essex and Glamorgan, Stuart Law, Essex's talented Australian, said that the incidents that took place were "part and parcel of the game back home". Well, the Australians can keep that. They are different animals over there and, to their eternal advantage, they have a different climate in England's.

Unfortunately, the most

important modern Test matches are mostly won by great leg spinners or great fast bowlers, species which are seldom raised — and seldom have been — in this country. That has very little to do with the county structure, or with affluence, or indolence, or even with the national character. It is because of the weather and the pitches.

Far and away the best means of stimulating conditions in which, in the long term, England can learn a game to hold them in good stead is by covering the country with artificial pitches, an investment that rates no mention in "Raising the Standard". It is ironic how much more use is made of them in Australia, despite all the sunshine, than in England, despite all the rain.

In much its present form, the county championship has been the heart and voice of the English first-class game for 100 years. There is no competition in the world to match it. The standard of bowling is low at the moment; but so it is in the Sheffield Shield in Australia, the Red Stripe Cup in the Caribbean and the Ranji Trophy in India.

More, though, than with significant surgery or greater truculence or special squads, contracted to the ECB, England's well-being has to start with perceptive coaching and ample opportunities for the young. Finding coaches who really know their stuff is another matter — and a serious problem.

Kent cling on as Glamorgan take pole position in race for title

By ALAN LEE

TWO epic encounters concluded on Saturday and produced a new leader of the Britannic Assurance county championship. With one match remaining, Glamorgan are back on top, but in denying Kent sixth-wicket pair, in denying Yorkshire victory at Headingley, means that the margin is only one point and that the realistic title contenders are now down to two.

In the decisive round, which begins on Thursday and is scheduled for a grand finale next Sunday, Glamorgan will be at Taunton to play Somerset while Kent face Surrey at Canterbury. Only if neither side emerges with more than three points — in other words, by a freak of weather or a simultaneous collapse of form —

can the issue concern the clubs sharing third place. Warwickshire and Yorkshire.

Whatever destiny is decided for the championship at Lord's today, recent days have fully supported two fresh reforms. Four-day cricket, once implacably opposed by most of the counties now busy fighting a two-division split, is mutely accepted as an improved product, while the reintroduction of points for a draw has had the desired effect of stiffening the resistance of teams in trouble.

The Headingley match testified to both advances. It was precisely the type of match that the original proponents of four-day cricket had in mind — tough, unyieldingly competitive and devoid of the contrivance and cheap runs that undermined its three-day prede-

CHAMPIONSHIP COMMENTARY

cessor. The fact that it finished drawn was not a failure of the system, but an endorsement. The game was an absorbing contest throughout.

On Saturday, the equation quickly became clear. Yorkshire's two remaining wickets did not delay Kent and the erstwhile leaders set off in pursuit of 240. Time, ostensibly, was on their side, but the weather was as fickle as the pitch and Chris Silverwood was in the same mood that brought him seven wickets in the first innings.

Until recently, there had been a lean summer for Silverwood, so lean that it is easily forgotten that he had toured with England last

winter. By last weekend, he had done enough to gain inclusion in the A-team trip for the winter, but if the selectors had been sitting down today instead, he might have been heading for the Caribbean.

Silverwood does not lack pace — some Kent players believed his short ball was as rapid as anything they have faced all season — but his main virtue is control of direction and command of movement. His line brought him four leg-before decisions — three of them given on Saturday by that instinctive not-outer, Dickie Bird — and he was greatly helped by a supporting spell of sustained accuracy from Paul Hitchison, who

will accompany him to Kenya and Sri Lanka after Christmas. Soon after lunch, Kent were 48 for five and, of those waiting to bat, neither Steve Marsh nor Dean Headley were properly fit.

Kent were saved, as so often, by Mark Ealham and Matthew Fleming, who resisted for almost three hours in adding 99. The weather intervened twice, on the second occasion bringing down a grey curtain over what had never been a drab occasion. While Kent were grateful to settle for three points, for Yorkshire, they almost certainly represented an end to their championship dream.

Things were only slightly more straightforward at Cardiff. Glamorgan, having had a substantially worse deal from the weather than Kent this season, must have

TOP OF TABLE

	P	W	L	D	B	Pts
Glamorgan 110	16	7	2	7	46	53
Kent 14	16	7	2	7	41	50

slept in dread of the forecast heavy showers on Friday night, but they resumed on time and dismissed Ashley Cowan with the second ball of the morning.

Although Essex's tenth-wicket pair added 20, Paul Grayson being left two runs short of a merited century, the target of 149 in more than five hours did not seem daunting — at least until Cowan dismissed the most prolific opening pair in the country, Steve James and Hugh Morris, for a combined score of four. When Adrian Dale fell to Peter

Such, Glamorgan were 26 for three and Essex, who had followed on 192 behind, looked capable of an astonishing win. If ever there was a moment for Matthew Maynard to show the responsibility that comes with captaincy, this was it.

Maynard rose to the challenge with an unbeaten 75 in a stand of 124 with the resolute Tony Cottee. Eventually, it seemed comfortable — a seven-wicket margin for Glamorgan's seventh win of the campaign. Few teams have been quite as they seem in this championship, but one matter is now certain — if Glamorgan take the maximum 24 points against Somerset, they will win the title for the first time since 1969.

Scoreboards, page 25

1. Does your c
2. Has enough
3. Has your ch
4. Should mor
5. Should all o
6. Have your c
7. Who will rep
8. For which o

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FOOTBALL

Reid dishes out lesson in initiative

Birmingham City 0
Sunderland 1

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

TREVOR FRANCIS, the Birmingham City manager, has fond memories of Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager. Reid was Francis's second signing after he had taken charge of Queens Park Rangers at the start of his managerial career. "He was a great lad and we've become good friends over the years," Francis recalled in his match programme notes.

At St Andrew's yesterday, the teacher was turned over by his former pupil. Reid's Sunderland were always the more organised, imaginative and willing to try something different, no matter that they were a long way from home.

Results and tables 36

Birmingham rarely looked like extending their unbeaten sequence of 17 league and cup matches, which began last season, and ran out of ideas long before the end of an unattractive and frequently niggly encounter. Although a 0-0 draw would have been enough to take them to the top of the Nationwide League first division, they barely deserved to attain such heights.

Francis had anticipated a scrap. "Sunderland were exactly what I expected," he said. "They were very well prepared and totally committed. At times, they were too powerful for some of our lads."

"We knew it was not going to be particularly entertaining and that we would have to grind out a result. I consider we've dropped only one point because we were never going to win it. Having said that, we should have still got the draw."

Such negative thoughts ap-

peared to have filtered through to his players. Even McCarthy, making his debut after a £1.5 million move from Port Vale in midweek, failed to make any significant impression in a dull first half enlivened only by a series of spiky challenges and five bookings.

"I felt a bit sorry for the television people," Reid said. "They certainly wouldn't have had many highlights to show at half-time." Reid's misdirected header, cleared off the goal by Gray, was one of the few better moments.

Sunderland have taken a while to adjust to life outside the FA Carling Premiership, but relegation does not seem to have left too many scars, to judge from their third successive victory. Clark, cast aside by Newcastle United during the summer, was responsible for most of the creative work on view, while the busy Gray could never be left alone for too long.

Phillips — another close-season recruit, from Watford — also kept the Birmingham defence on full alert until retiring early with a groin muscle injury. "It's his abductor," Reid said, "you know, like the person who works on the buses."

Good humour was in similarly short supply in the second half, with John Kirkby, the referee, adding the name of Kevin Francis to his collection. At least a goal arrived, in the 72nd minute, when Smith flicked on Williams's throw-in and Gray drove into the net.

Reid, though, was not entirely satisfied. "If you don't play that well, the least you should look for is to be hard to beat," he said. "That's what we were."

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): 1 Barnett — D. Wastall, S. Bruce (sub: M. Johnson, 64min), G. Aitken, M. Granger — J. McCarthy, B. Hughes, M. O'Connor (sub: C. Hillard, 80), P. Ndlovu (sub: K. Francis, 71) — P. Furlong, P. Davies.

SUNDERLAND (3-5-2): L. Perez — C. Main, R. Ord, A. Melville — D. Williams, A. Johnston, K. Ball, L. Clark, M. Gray — M. Smith (sub: A. Reid, 88), K. Phillips (sub: J. Mullin, 53). Referee: J. Kirby.



Gray, of Sunderland, celebrates the goal that was enough to inflict a home defeat on Birmingham City yesterday

Cambridge forced to break Abbey habit

Cambridge United 1
Barnet 3

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

THE Abbey Stadium, according to a recent study, is the most welcoming of all 92 English league grounds for visiting supporters, who can enjoy sympathetic stewarding, clean toilets and excellent bacon sandwiches. On Saturday, followers of Barnet also saw their team become the first this season to experience any hospitality on the Abbey pitch as they ended Cambridge United's run of three successive victories there with a convincing win of their own.

With Barnet having been overwhelmed 5-1 by Peterborough United six days earlier, John Still's team clearly returned to Cambridgeshire in no mood to suffer a repeat. "Our best performance of the season," Still said, "it was a freak result last week. We're a new team trying to work a certain way and we'll have ups and downs because it's a learning process. We all have a bad day at the office; it's a fact of life."

In a first half of scarcely believable dullness, nothing the home side did explained how they had risen to the leading positions in the Nationwide League third division. Their defence, for instance, fell apart in the 39th minute as Devine's flick provided Charley with more than enough space to put Barnet ahead.

Devine got the second and had a weak penalty saved by Barrett before Head headed Barnett's third, leaving Taylor to poke in a late goal for Cambridge that consoling nobody, least of all Roy McFarland, the manager.

"It's put us on our back-sides, but that might be a good thing at this stage," he said. "In the first 20 minutes, we looked as if we thought we'd stroll it. Three goals flattered Barnett, but they could have got four." Or five, or six — but that would have been taking hospitality a bit too far.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (4-4-2): 1 Barnett — D. Wastall, S. Bruce (sub: M. Johnson, 64min), G. Aitken, M. Granger — J. McCarthy, B. Hughes, M. O'Connor (sub: C. Hillard, 80), P. Ndlovu (sub: K. Francis, 71) — P. Furlong, P. Davies.

SUNDERLAND (3-5-2): L. Perez — C. Main, R. Ord, A. Melville — D. Williams, A. Johnston, K. Ball, L. Clark, M. Gray — M. Smith (sub: A. Reid, 88), K. Phillips (sub: J. Mullin, 53). Referee: J. Kirby.

Ware double wrecks Morecambe record

By WALTER GAMMIE

A 3-1 home defeat by Hednesford Town ended the unbeaten record enjoyed by Morecambe, the Vauxhall Conference leaders, on a day that produced a hectic 5-5 draw between Rushden and Diamonds and Farnborough Town and further underlined the unpredictable feel to the early weeks of the season.

It was a matter of time before Hednesford's close-season recruitment brought rewards, with Paul Ware, signed from Stockport County, scoring two of the goals. If Rushden can take any consolation from three times losing the lead, it is that four of their goals were scored by Adrian Foster, recruited in the close season from Hereford United and making his first full appearance after a toe injury.

Morecambe's slip-up means that Halifax Town are the sole unbeaten side, although they were one of ten Conference clubs engaged in the first qualifying round of the FA Cup on Saturday.

They came through safely, 4-1 winners over Droylesden at The Shay, but two Confer-

ence teams came unstuck. Telford United were beaten 2-1 by Bedworth United, of the Dr Martens League, at Bucks Head and Leek Town fell 1-0 at Winsford United, of the UniBond League. Leek, trailing to a first-half header by Paul Wheeler, wasted a chance to force a replay when Steve Sole's penalty was saved by Andy Oakes.

Bedworth's victory, courtesy of second-half goals by Paul Corden and Robbie Beard, was a welcome tonic for a club whose survival was guaranteed only by supporters forming a new band in the summer. An even greater boost is a home tie in the next round against Nuneaton Borough, their local rivals, that will swell the coffers on Saturday.

Miracles Blackstone, the United Counties League club, were beaten 1-0 at Rockingham Road, where Micky Nuttall's twelfth-minute goal brought Kettering Town, bottom of the Conference, their first win of the season. A crowd of only 768 reflected local disenchantment.

Arguments for breakaway lack substance

By KEVIN MCCARRA

IN THE midst of the pocket of Aberdeen supporters at Ibrox on Saturday, a few "Yes, Yes" placards were waved. This devolution slogan, deployed by the winners of last week's referendum in Scotland, was meant to taunt the followers of Rangers, who, with their penchant for the Union Jack, are naively assumed to be an undifferentiated mass of crusty Conservatives.

Before the interweaving of sport and politics could be pondered, the mere sight of those cheery signs had a jolting effect. One might have supposed that Aberdeen fans would be carrying "Oh, no" banners. There is little cause for a sunny disposition, when a person's affections are glued to a club with only two victories in the Scottish League since December.

In football, moods are quick both to flare up and to fizzle out. The Aberdeen enclave was exultant after the 3-3 draw on Saturday, even if there is only the flimsy thread of goal difference to keep them above bottom place in the table.

There were 24 goals in the premier division's five fixtures, demonstrating the contribution that incompetence can make to public merriment. The jollity was, of course, lost on Walter Smith, the Rangers manager. Disgust and anger vied for control of his features as he watched a match peppered with avoidable goals.

Celtic were twice behind at Motherwell, before winning 3-2. The relief of their supporters cannot have been strong enough to hold at bay the disquieting thought that so disorderly a performance would leave them defenceless against Liverpool in the first leg of the UEFA Cup tie at Celtic Park tomorrow night.

Given their sagging defence, Rangers, in the same tournament, must trust that Nice continue to play as poorly as they have in the French league. Despite its eventual nature, the premier division could easily be regarded as a coarse form of entertainment.

that accounts for the inadequacies of clubs when they compete in Europe.

The proposals for the reconstruction of Scottish football are supposed to rest on a noble desire to elevate those standards. Last week, the member clubs of the premier division announced that they wish to break with the Scottish Football League (SFL) and form an independent body, the Scottish Premiership.

Instead of solid strategy, however, the revolutionaries have offered only foggy scenarios of youth development and assurances that wealth will still trickle down to the 30 smaller clubs left behind. The Scottish Premiership even intends to maintain promotion and relegation with the SFL.

So great is the apparent respect of premier division members for the status quo that they have yet to explain why they need to detach themselves. The present television deals, which bring in a paltry £12 million over four years, are scorned, but they were negotiated four years ago and have been overtaken by events.

Much better contracts would be agreed next summer, even if the SFL remained intact. Nor can the premier division representatives accuse the rest of the clubs of being leeches when they retain 87 per cent of television revenues.

Yesterday, representatives of the first, second and third division clubs met to discuss the breakaway. Most are, at best, suspicious. It is scarcely surprising that they have still to be persuaded for those who seek to found the Scottish Premiership are not convinced either.

Advocates of the Scottish Premiership should frame a far more compelling case. Although the leading clubs seem to have the power to force through their scheme, a bleak future is in prospect if they are capable of winning only the battle and not the debate.

► REWARDING TIMES ◀

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Empty stands detract from Sky's coverage

A year ago, the Heineken Cup was friendless. ITV had quietly dropped it from the schedule and the BBC had yet to cobble together the rescue package that at last allowed us to see the later stages. Twelve months on, I ought to be able to say that the future of rugby union's newest competition is safe in the hands of BSkyB, but I cannot. Not confidently, anyway.

It is nothing to do with the television coverage, which on Saturday saw a huge improvement on the indifferent camera-work that marred the opening day of the season at Bath. No, the problem is the rugby. Many more afternoons like Saturday and competition could be friendless again. This time permanently.

The Stoop Memorial Ground is virtually second home to Sky's outside broadcast units — if it is not Super League and the London Broncos, it is rugby union and Harlequins — but no amount of familiarity or technical wizardry could disguise the first problem to afflict Harlequins against Bourgoin. Almost nobody had turned up to watch it. As Mark Duden-Smith and Kyran Bracken plodded through a half-hour build-up, the grandstand behind them remained stubbornly empty.

Lack of crowd is what blighted television coverage of club rugby for years. Apart from prompting the viewer to ask himself "what am I doing watching this if nobody else is?", there is something particularly depressing about the

way that a few lonely shouts of encouragement carry over a muddy rugby field. It is a problem that has eased with rugby's renaissance. The crowds at Bath and Leicester have no problem producing the sort of roar that a sound engineer can do something with, but on Saturday at the Stoop, Sky needed either a miracle-worker — or a cheat.

Lacour's lessons in place-kicking certainly gave Sky's camera operators opportunity to practise following the ball over the goalposts, the skill that mysteriously eluded them at the Recreation Ground. They did not miss a single one, including the effort that left Favre's boot at 90 degrees to the intended angle and never got more than six inches off the ground. "I think the kick-



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

ing tee got closer to the posts than the ball," Stuart Barnes observed from the commentary box.

Sky's cameras also managed to pick up an impressive number of off-the-ball incidents, or punches as they are more commonly known. In that respect, they put their French counterparts covering Pau v Llanelli to shame. The French director saw no punches, which at least put him in agreement with the referee.

The replay of Torsessian head-butting an opponent we appeared to see by accident. Certainly, we never saw it again. "If that had been a Welsh player doing that, we'd have had 37 replays by now," Mark Robson commented.

Pau against Llanelli and the similarly bruising encounter between Brive and Pontypridd yesterday provided the first opportunity I had had to hear Sky's B team in action and I was half-impressed. Robson

was accurate, appropriate and gently amusing. Indeed, it might have been one of his jokes that led to Dewi Morris having a rather uncomfortable game alongside him on Saturday. "Rupert Moon," Robson noted, "18 caps for Wales but many more appearances on the bench — makes him the Dewi Morris of Welsh rugby, I suppose." Good thing it was not Barnes sitting next to him. He would have got thumped.

Jokes apart, Morris, who had a better time yesterday, is discovering that there is more to this co-commentary lark than most former players imagine, particularly once their fame begins to fade. The amount of time that you can survive on platitudes and sporting clichés gets shorter

and shorter. Barnes realised this with impressive speed and has adopted an aggressive "you might not agree with me but you can't ignore me" stance. The haircut, which after Saturday I now realise is not a George Clooney but a variation of the new Will Carling, is just part of the belligerent image.

Whatever you think of his adopted style (of punditry, not hair), there is little disputing the fact that it does work. On Saturday, Barnes' arrival in the presentation studio helped Duden-Smith to fill the long hour between the end of one game and the beginning of the next and he was still there at the five hours of European rugby came to a close. Barnes

concluded with the thought that the decision by Leo Mayne, the referee, not to send anyone off despite a dozen outbreaks of fisticuffs, suggested that he was suffering from Neville Chamberlain complex. "He thought he had peace in our time."

Yesterday, he had referees under the cosh again as Pontypridd's thrilling fightback against Brive was thwarted by a contentious injury-time try. "That's an appalling decision by Ed Murray," Barnes thundered as the belated replay revealed absolutely no sign of the ball under a maul. "You can see the referee's legs but you can't see the ball — how can he give that decision?" If he would just stop sitting on the fence, he could get really good at this.

The football manager dubbed a 'turnip' is back at Vicarage Road and happy to put down fresh roots

Return to his old patch suits Taylor

Graham Taylor has never had any difficulty sleeping, whatever casual cruelty football has inflicted upon him during the day. The essential difference between managing Watford, at the top of the Nationwide League second division, and England, on the verge of elimination from the World Cup, is that he no longer wakes wretched in a cold sweat.

Today, his 53rd birthday, is the type of occasion that encourages a glance in life's rear-view mirror. Taylor has been drained of tension, yet still recognises himself as "the touchline figure", a decent family man reduced to obscurity by the stresses of English football's most unforgiving job.

That image, from the self-destructive television documentary that charted the decline and fall of his England regime, endures. He is still taunted as the turnip of tabloid mythology, but is no longer affronted by admissions of frailty. He has had his privacy invaded, his personality maligned and his principles violated, but his pride is intact.

He has reverted to type, finding in his return to Watford a refuge that offers unconditional respect rather than unrelenting contempt. He remains suspicious of strangers and, despite being the son of a journalist, still refuses to allow a newspaper into his home. It has taken him four years to lose the pallid, jowly look of a loser.

He sat, hunched into a corner of an empty dressing-room, before the 2-1 victory over Chesterfield on Saturday that stretched Watford's lead at the top to four points. He was in reflective, almost confessional mood, but his eyes were hooded, haunted. He was, in turn, wistful, wry, defensive and defiant.

"I'd be disappointed in myself if, towards the end with England, I had looked anything other than ill," he admitted, leaning forward with his elbows resting on his knees to emphasise the point. "When things are going radically wrong, I can't see how you can smile about it. Sure, I ranted and raved, but I was working. I was in there, doing it. I'm not prepared to compromise. Why should I?"

"People say it got to me and, given that I'm not used to waking up in the morning and screwing the sweat out of my pyjamas, it probably did. But I do care, very passionately, about anything I am committed to. Remember that we are talking about having the hopes and ambitions of a nation on your shoulders. They may be unrealistic hopes and ambitions, but they weigh very heavily."

"How upset or overjoyed should you get about people's opinions of you? I've learnt not to worry about image. I look at some people in the game, who are so conscious about what others think about them, and I smile. I can see them trying to recreate themselves. Image may seem so much to so many, but I can look through that and see the real person."

MICHAEL CALVIN



Self-awareness is, however, a painful privilege. He was football's leonard, a gifted youth who flew too close to the Sun. He was ambitious, articulate, a champion of family values when the game was tainted. The accolades, accumulated during a decade in which he took Watford from the fourth division to the FA Cup Final, counted for nothing when he was headhunted from Aston Villa to succeed Bobby Robson.

Two defeats marked his downfall. The first, a 2-1 loss to the host nation, Sweden, resulted in elimi-



The Watford dugout has afforded Taylor a welcome escape from abuse and intrusion. "I am in my element," he says. "This is a very special place."

nation from the 1992 European championship. "That's where the problems started," Taylor said. "We were leading at half-time and I substituted Gary Lineker, a nation's hero. From that moment, we had to qualify for the World Cup. We didn't and I had to go."

The second defeat, endured by Wolverhampton Wanderers away to Bolton Wanderers in the first division play-off semi-final in 1995, was, by his own admission, "very, very damaging personally". Four months later, driving up the M6, he heard a local radio report on his impending departure from Molineux. "I was very philosophical," he said. "The yobbo element among Wolves fans had combined with the yobbo element in the tabloid press to get me. They fed off each other. I could have refused to resign, but they would have sacked me."

"I made a little speech to myself: 'It would appear, Graham, that you are going to have to face up to what you are going to do with the rest of your life. That might be outside football.' I have to say the prospect didn't cause me any grief



at all." He kept a private promise and watched England's cricketers tour South Africa, but the psychological scars began to heal only when Geoff Smith, the Watford president and a former boardroom ally, asked him to return to Vicarage Road.

"I really needed that call," Taylor said. "What the public don't understand is that the fact I am a football manager makes me no different to any other unemployed



man. Losing my job made me see things in perspective, look at my home and family differently, but I was still unwanted. To be told there was no role for me, in a game in which I had been involved for my entire working life, was a real rejection. I needed someone at that time to say 'Hey, we need you'."

Now, to borrow a phrase from Elton John, the Watford chairman, "Graham is back where he belongs". He has a visible affinity



with the community and is building a vibrant new team. Chesterfield were allowed back into the game after trailing to goals by Ronny Rosenthal and Jason Lee, but Taylor remained largely impassive. His one concession to exasperation was to run his hand through his hair.

"I am in my element at Watford," he said. "This is a very special place where everyone, players, directors and supporters,

fight for the same cause. I almost had to leave to learn about the real world. I went to clubs with so many factions, where certain people had their own agendas. They wanted it to go badly for their own reasons and that problem was magnified with England."

"Now I look at the hype of the Premiership and realise it is quite a pleasure to work in the second division. Football is escapism. Is it a real job? Compared to many, it is not. I am relaxed, but I'm still ambitious. Of course, I'd like to be England's manager again, but that's never going to happen."

"Only a few of us know what that job is all about. The demands placed on you, by so many people, make it the type you can only stand for so long. It is so results-oriented and Glenn [Hoddle] is getting the results. Good for him, but I know what I am about. People think I'm trying to prove myself, but I'm just enjoying myself. I know that, supposing we get promotion, they'll sneer and say 'well, that's his level'. Why should I worry? All the cheap lines have already been used at my expense."

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

SPORTS LETTERS

e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Graciousness in defeat

From Mr Supraj Rajagopalan

Sir, In all the excitement that has surrounded the resurgence of British tennis recently, it seems that we have forgotten to give good sportsmanship the credit it deserves. Tim Henman's abrupt departure from the court and subsequent failure to acknowledge his opponent's superiority after his loss to Michael Stich at Wimbledon was a prime example.

Perhaps he should look to Greg Rusedski who, after giving his all for four hard sets, still managed to smile and praise his conqueror, Pat Rafter, in the US Open final. We all want to see British stars winning, but it is important they set an example to youngsters by being as gracious in defeat as in victory. For this reason, as well as his great US Open run, the nation should be proud that Rusedski is British.

Yours faithfully,
SUPRAJ RAJAGOPALAN,
11 Crecy Walk,
Hensington Gate,
Woodstock, Oxfordshire.

From Mr K Broad
Sir, Fred Perry... Tim Henman... Greg Rusedski... isn't it about time we stopped crowing about the successes of our tennis stars?

Yours faithfully,
KEN BROAD,
Manor Court,
Church Aston,
Newport,
Shropshire.

Rightful home

From Mr Nick Lorenzen

Sir, Simon Barnes (Hoarding the Ashes is Cultural Cringe, September 3) hit a good many nerves and went to the heart of the relationship between England and Australia. I was born in England and only settled in Australia eight years ago, yet I feel more Australian than ever I did English. Switching my sport-

Club cricket should have been postponed

From Mr P Bennett

Sir, I was astonished by the decision of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) regarding the playing of amateur cricket on September 6. For them to say that "recreational cricket should be played" was an insensitive and incomprehensible statement that has caused local and, I am certain, national disagreement.

If the other sports, such as rugby union and football, can make dramatic alterations to their playing schedules, why was an exception made for cricket. More surprisingly, why did the media allow them to get away with it?

Our local league ruled that "All games

affecting promotion and relegation must be played, while other matches may be cancelled." Unfortunately, for the first time in the history of my club, which is 122 years old, we were involved in a promotion battle. After long deliberation, it was decided to cancel the second XI game, but the first XI game went ahead, after observing a two-minute silence. I, and many others, were unhappy, but the club felt forced into this action, initially encouraged by the ECB and then forced by our League.

Yours faithfully,
PHIL BENNETT,
The Old Forge,
Churt, Nr Farnham, Surrey.

Yours sincerely,
NICK LORENZEN
79 Whale Beach Road,
Whale Beach, Sydney,
Australia.
nicklorenz@msn.com

Some appetite

From Mr Peter Allsopp

Sir, I was entertained to read Dickie Bird's declaration in The Times (September 8) that

he would pick Geoff Boycott to bat for his life. Some months ago, I was at a Burslem hotel at the same time as Mr Bird and was privileged to see him at breakfast. If ever I have to nominate anyone to eat breakfast for my life, I shall look no further.

Yours etc,
PETER ALLSOPP,
138 Ashby Road,
Hinckley,
Leics.
peterallsopp@pexsystems.com

How to make game better

From Mr Simon Robinson and Dr Bryan Robinson

Sir, While current proposals for the county championships have some good points, the following seem better:

The present competition should be replaced with a similar system in three regions, the leading teams from which would gain a semi-final place in an end-of-season knockout tournament; second and third-placed teams would battle for the fourth place. The resultant championship would provide players with an incentive to be consistent and reduce travel. Spectators' interest would continue through the early season, with the prospect of an exciting climax in late summer.

SIMON ROBINSON,
BRYAN ROBINSON,
Forest View,
Hawthorn Lane,
Farnham Common,
Bucks.

From Mr C. J. A. Slater

Sir, With reference to Gordon Wright's letter (September 8), concerning the use of concrete wickets, the idea was also put forward in 1948 by Sir Donald Bradman.

Noting the low standard of English cricket at the time, he organised a fund to provide concrete wickets covered with matting for practice. My club, Church Stretton, in Shropshire, was, I believe, the second club to receive a donation from the fund.

It enabled young players to play without fear of being hurt, but I cannot think of any locals who went on to a high grade of cricket because of it. We also used similar pitches for all the RAF cricket I played in the 1950s. It was excellent, although we were fortunate that Fred Trueman, stationed at the next camp, declined to play against us, as he was in the Test team.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. A. SLATER,
29 Rookwood Drive,
Stevenage,
Herts.

This week in THE TIMES



■ Tomorrow
A look at the UEFA Cup prospects for England and Scotland's clubs as a week of European football kicks off.

■ Friday
All eyes on Taunton and Canterbury in the race to be cricket's county champions.

■ Saturday
Football Saturday: the Premiership match-by-match. Oliver Holt, Steve McManaman and Brian Glanville.

38

Dulwich pack punch in all departments

By JOHN GOODBODY

IT MAY need a team of tanks to stop Dulwich College on the rugby union field this term. Few schools can ever have been armed with such ability. Dulwich have three forwards from the England 18-group team fresh from a victorious tour of Australia, plus, at scrum half, Tim Dux, the captain of the England Under-16 team two years ago, and his successor, Chris King, a centre.

"Everything is just coming together," Dux said. "This is the season for which Dulwich has been waiting for so long."

Three years ago, Dulwich won the Daily Mail Under-15 national competition without conceding a point and 14 of their team played against Epsom on Saturday, David Flatman, the England Schools prop, being the newcomer.

This first fixture between the schools was running so strongly in Dulwich's favour that the referee sensibly ended the game at least ten minutes early with the score at 80-3. It was not that Epsom were spiritless. They are a perfectly respectable team, with a long and precise kicker in Richard Small, the fly half. They stuck to their task with commendable concentration.

However, a school pack does not

usually face two athletic 17st props like Flatman and Jon Dawson, who are supported by Andrew Sheridan, 18st, a shot-putter who was fourth in the England schools' championship two years ago. He is described by Peter Allen, the master in charge at Dulwich, as "a gentleman off the pitch but a tyrant on it". Epsom could, therefore, offer plenty of excuses for being subdued. Andy Wolstenholme, their master in charge said: "There is so much power in the Dulwich front five and they have the pace and intelligence among the backs to go with it. It is as good a school team as you will see. They will be scoring a lot of points this season."

Although it was their first inter-schools game of the term, Epsom played three matches in a pre-season tour of Ireland, while Dulwich, without their three England forwards, paid a month-long visit to Australia, a tour that served to give them added zest and sharpness.

Perhaps this was best shown in the thirtieth minute, when Dulwich were already leading 46-0. For once, they were careless and Tom Wilkinson, the Epsom captain, broke clear down the touchline. However, he was pursued all the way by James Franklin, the Dulwich hooker, who caught his man just in time.



The formidable Dulwich front row prepares to lock horns with their Epsom counterparts

King, who scored three tries on Saturday, is the most fluent runner among the Dulwich backs. "He gets buried if he tries to trash through a defence," Allen said, "but he is good at running into a hole and, in a one-to-one situation, I would back him nine times out of ten."

Although Dulwich will have to tidy up their goal-kicking, only a spate of injuries or complacency seem likely to disturb them. However, any over-confidence is sure to be stamped on by Dux, the captain, of whom Allen says: "He reads the game well and is a great motivator."

The forwards recognise that some

of their experiences in Australia will not need to be re-enacted in inter-schools games. "The physicality has to be toned down," Flatman said, "but everyone came back from Australia an improved player. We learnt so much from Geoff Wappett and the other England coaches."

Flatman is one player who is attracted by the prospect of playing professional rugby union and Allen believes he could almost play in the first division now. "There is so much glory in it," Flatman said. "Everyone wants to play for England."

Club and representative teams are queuing up to sign the players, but

Allen is conscious of the need to "protect the talented youngsters. They should not really play more than one game a week and they can progress through the ranks after Christmas."

Dux is well aware of the dangers of snoring academic work. "A young professional player can break his leg three times and never play again. If you are not prepared to secure another career, that is it."

DULWICH COLLEGE: N West, M Woolley, C King, H Stewart, R Reynolds, M Mason, T Dux, D Flatman, J Franklin, J Davidson, A Sheridan, J Nurse, M White, A Thompson, M Graham.

EPSOM COLLEGE: Y Baker, A Henson, T Wilkinson, T Hayward, M Dalrymple, R Small, A Dorse, G Tongue, O Bridge, R Cheevers, R Oglander, C Slade, M Gossain, O Wallis, M Roberts.

ICE HOCKEY

Cranston leads Sheffield charge

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

EARLY indications are that, however many changes there may have been in personnel, the Superleague will probably follow much the same pattern as last season. Nottingham Panthers and Cardiff Devils, having played three games in their Benson and Hedges Cup group, remain unbeaten, while Sheffield Steelers are challenging for the lead in their group.

On Saturday, all three won, with the Steelers running up a double-figure score against Paisley Pirates, of the National League. Tim Cranston scored

three of the Sheffield goals and they led 7-1 by the end of the second period.

It was a much closer contest at Bracknell, where Cardiff beat the local Bees by the odd goal in five, but they were fortunate to win the points. Late in the second period, what appeared to be a good goal was disallowed because the on-ice officials failed to see the puck enter the net. Both goaltenders were outstanding and Mark Bernard was rightly voted the Bracknell man-of-the-match. Frank Caprice, in the Cardiff goal, was also kept busy.

Basingstoke Bison, who finished bottom of the Superleague last season, went down 5-2 at Nottingham, unable to recover from a 3-1 deficit at the first interval.

After Scottish Eagles and Newcastle Cobras played out a 4-4 draw. When Alan Schuler gave Ayr a 4-3 lead, with less than seven minutes to go, the Scottish-based side must have thought they were home and dry, but Brett Stewart pounced to score with 4½ minutes remaining on the clock to salvage a valuable point for the Cobras.

Title completes Carr comeback

By TONY HOARE

PETER CARR rounded off a remarkable comeback season on Saturday night by lifting the Premier League riders' championship at the Brandon Stadium, Coventry. Carr, 34, sneaked through to the semi-finals of the competition and went on to win the final and claim the first prize of a Jawa bike.

Carr, who represented Edinburgh in the competition, which pitted the best riders from all 14 Premier League clubs against each other, gave supporters from the Scottish capital another success to cheer after their Premier League Cup triumph a fortnight earlier.

Yet, at the start of the year, Carr was virtually a forgotten man, having retired in the middle of the 1995 season after a disappointing spell with Belle Vue. However, Edinburgh tempted him back into the saddle after their slow start to the campaign and his return has been remarkable. In 28 matches for the Monarchs before Saturday, he had recorded 11 unbeaten scores, the highest in the Premier League.

Carr, who represented England four times in the 1980s, said: "Everything has gone so well since I came back. My starting is better now than it ever was and the new style of bikes used since I retired have helped me a lot."

Edinburgh had a double celebration on Saturday with Robert Eriksson, their Swedish rider, finishing in third place. Glenn Cunningham, of Reading, was second.

Anders Henriksson, of Newport, crashed heavily with Leigh Lamham, of Exeter, in the final race and was taken to hospital, where he was detained overnight with concussion and a burn to his leg.

A dominant individual performance from Tony Rickardsson, of Sweden, could not stop Denmar winning the World Team Cup final on Saturday. Hans Nielsen and Tommy Knudsen, the veteran Danish pair, took the title, with 24 points, from Poland, on 25. Rickardsson scored 17 out of Sweden's 21, which earned them third place.

BMW lead the race back to Formula One

The Williams Formula One team and BMW last week finally confirmed motor racing's worst-kept secret — that the two would be teaming up from the start of the 2000 grand prix season. For BMW, the announcement that it is returning to the sport comes almost exactly ten years after the German car company left Formula One. It is an opportunity to revive a proud tradition that last saw BMW taking a championship with Nelson Piquet at the wheel in 1983.

BMW is already beginning to work on the project at its Munich headquarters. The project team is being led by Paul Rosche, technical director of BMW motor sport, who has previous Formula One experience. The company is also looking for a site close to Williams's Oxfordshire base.

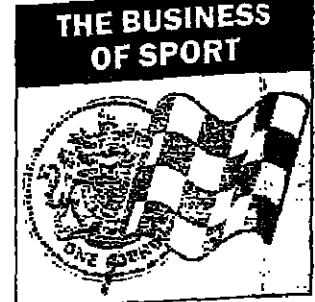
For all BMW's past experience, the company is facing an unenviable task in trying to fill the void left by the departure of Renault from the sport. Renault's Mechachrome V10 engine has dominated Formula One racing throughout the 1990s, powering not just Williams but Benetton to eight drivers' and manufacturers' titles.

While Williams's stranglehold on the sport appears to be slipping this year, the Renault engine remains so central to Frank Williams's plans that he has taken the unusual step of agreeing to purchase an engine that was previously given to the team free. For £11 million a year, Renault has agreed to continue supplying the engine from the end of the season until BMW is ready to take control in 2000.

Renault's decision to quit Formula One surprised many when it was announced late last year, but the company is a victim of its own domination of the sport. The marketing team has concluded that Williams-Renault has become so synonymous with Formula One success that there are few extra benefits to be gained from remaining.

Renault invests around £40 million a year in the sport, supporting a team of 150 highly-skilled design staff to ensure the engine's continuing success. Around 30 engineers travel the grand prix circuit to help fix any last-minute glitches.

At a time when the parent company is undergoing a painful restructuring process that is resulting in job losses across the company, Renault felt it could no longer justify its huge outlay on the relative



luxury of motor sport. Yet while the car industry as a whole is struggling to deal with problems created by overcapacity, Renault's decision to depart does not seem to have greatly tarnished the appeal of the sport.

BMW left Formula One in 1987, but such is the company's enthusiasm to return that it is willing to invest £100 million in its five-year deal with Williams. The Japanese car company, Honda, which departed the grand prix circuit in 1992 after leading the way during the 1980s, has also expressed its determination to return.

Formula One retains an irresistible glamour for the big motor manufacturers. BMW explained its return in the marketing jargon beloved of the industry. "Key aspects of the BMW brand, like dynamism and innovation, complement the attributes of Formula One," the company's press release claimed. Translated, it means that BMW felt it could no longer sit and watch while its main rivals, Mercedes, stole the limelight through the increasing success of the McLaren team.

Car manufacturers also love to claim that they can use techniques developed on the Formula One circuit for their production cars.

While the engines developed for grand prix cars now seem to have more in common with aircraft than with the hatchbacks on the streets of Europe, there has been some transfer of technology. But if this was the main reason for investing in motor sport, BMW would simply stick with its successful touring and sports car teams, which provide far more direct lines for technology transfer.

As production cars become increasingly uniform in price and technology, the marketing becomes ever more central to success. Do not be surprised to find Renault itching to make a return to the grand prix circuit in a few years time.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The holders of the Gold Cup were knocked out in the third round this year. This is a hand from the match.

Dealer East	Game all	IMP
<p> ♠ 762 ♥ Q1053 ♦ KQJ104 ♣ 982 </p>	<p> ♠ J983 ♥ A ♦ AKJ76 ♣ A983 </p>	
<p> ♠ 6 ♥ KQJ1094 ♦ 982 ♣ 762 </p>	<p> ♠ J983 ♥ A ♦ AKJ76 ♣ A983 </p>	
<p> S Sanqvist Double 4S Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: King of hearts </p>	<p> W Crouch All Pass 4C Pass </p>	<p> N Short 4C Pass </p>

It's not clear what the correct action is on South's hand over East's One Diamond. An immediate Four Spades would have been my choice.

East discarded a diamond on the king of hearts. Declarer won and played two top trumps (on which East played the three and eight); on the second trump West correctly discarded the two of clubs. When there is a long suit in an entryless dummy you should give your partner a count of it as soon as possible.

Declarer switched to a club at trick four, and when West followed with the seven East could tell West had started with three clubs, so he won the first club. But now he fell from grace by attempting to cash two diamonds. Sanqvist ruffed the second diamond, and exited with queen and another trump. East had to give the rest of the tricks to dummy.

Had East exited with a trump after winning the first diamond, the best declarer can do is to put East back in with a fourth trump. When East plays a second high diamond, declarer discards, and now makes the rest of the tricks. However, that is still one off. Another variation is for East to preserve the three of spades until then if South carelessly ruffs the second diamond with the two. East can avoid being thrown in by unblocking the jack of spades on the third round of the suit.

For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge, call the organisers on 0181-942 9506.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

England selection

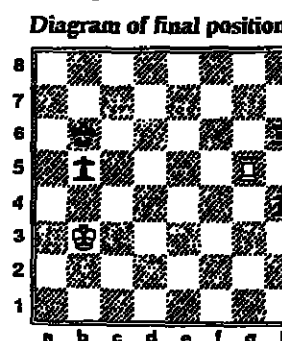
The British Chess Federation has announced the selection of the following team to represent England, the reigning European champions, at the world team championship in Switzerland in October. In board order, the team is: Nigel Short, Michael Adams, Matthew Sadler, Jon Speelman, Julian Hodgson, John Nunn. With this team England has, for the first time, a real chance of winning gold medals in the world championship, though some eyebrows may be raised at the decision to exclude grandmaster Tony Miles who shared first prize in the British championship tournament at Hove this year.

Age v youth
Veteran Viktor Korchnoi and French prodigy Etienne Bacrot are locked in a six-game match. Here is Korchnoi's win in game one.

White: Etienne Bacrot
Black: Viktor Korchnoi

Albert, France, September 1997

Queen's Gambit Declined
1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 e6
3 Nf3 d5
4 Nc3 Be7
5 Bg5 h6
6 Bxf6 Bxf6
7 Qc2 c5
8 dxc5 Qxc5
9 Bxc4 Qxc5
10 Ne4 Qe5+
11 Ke2 Be7
12 Kd2 Nf7
13 g4 Nd7
14 B3 Nf6
15 Ne2 Bd7
16 Rhg1 Rf8
17 Qb3 Qb6



Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AUTOCOID
a. Shaped like a car
b. Human reaction
c. Secretion

DIRAC
a. Vin de pays
b. A mathematician
c. Union of driving instructors

APLUSTER
a. Armour-piercing ammunition
b. A ship's stern
c. A Zodiac light

BARBAROSSA
a. An operative bone surgeon
b. A wartime campaign
c. A New Testament malefactor

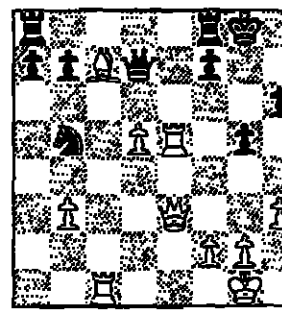
Answers on page 43

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Ibragimov-Seal, Berlin 1997.

Beginners are often taught not to make weakening pawn moves in front of the king without good reason. Today's position is a good demonstration of why this is good advice. White to play.



Solution on page 43

Mees Pierson

FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

The companies listed have registered their golf day for the 1997 Challenge. The top four individual scores on the day will form the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

For entry details you can either:

- TELEPHONE 0171 405 7273
- FAXBACK ON 0660 600667
- ACCESS THE INTERNET SITE ON <http://www.golftoday.co.uk/timescorp/golf/index.htm>

National Final shown on

Date	Company name	Venue	Players
12 SEPT	BRYDON JOHNSON & CO	NEVER	50
12 SEPT	CROALL BRYSON & CO LTD	ROXBURGH	32
12 SEPT	EMIL LIMITED	COURSE - SUNLAW	17
12 SEPT	HYMANS ROBERTSON	BEARWOOD LAKES	17
12 SEPT	LINDAS LTD	DUKE'S DEME	40
12 SEPT	MCLEAN HOMES	OVERSTONE PARK	30
12 SEPT	EAST ABERLAIN LTD	BURY ST EDMUNDS	70
12 SEPT	PLATO COMPUTER SERVICES (UK) LTD	MERTON GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	60
12 SEPT	POLYTELL PRODUCTS LIMITED	MOOR PARK	46
12 SEPT	SAVILLS INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS	KORTLINGTON	46
13 SEPT	GR ADVANCED MATERIALS	DULLATUR	24
13 SEPT	MCCORMACK DENTAL LIMITED	CARLOW	80
13 SEPT	MINI STOCKBROKERS LTD	POWERSCOURT	15
14 SEPT	ALKA INTERNATIONAL LTD	BUSHEY HALL	28
14 SEPT	HEWLEY DOCTORS ON CALL	GILLINGHAM	20
14 SEPT	NISSAN MOTOR (GB) LTD	MILLRIDE	40
15 SEPT	ADAS	BENSTON	90
15 SEPT	BP SUNBURY	BETHWORTH PARK	30
15 SEPT	CHARLES RUSSELL	TEMPLE	40
15 SEPT	ICL IRELAND	POWERSCOURT	60
15 SEPT	J ROTHCHILD PARTNERSHIP	PAXHILL PARK	20
15 SEPT	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE	WALTON HEATH	60
15 SEPT	TAYLOR NELSON A&S	STOKE PAGES	90
15 SEPT	AIG EUROPE (UK) LIMITED	SELSDON PARK	30
16 SEPT	ALAN STEEL (ASSET MANAGEMENT) LTD	NEWCASTLE	24
16 SEPT	AVIS RENT A CAR	RICHMOND	16
16 SEPT	BUZZACOTT	NEW ZEALAND	40
16 SEPT	COOPERS & LYBRAND	ARCOT HALL	40
16 SEPT	DOB LUPTON ALSP	MOOR PARK	40
16 SEPT	ICS UNICORP LTD	BELOVED PARK	50
16 SEPT	JETSET EUROPE PLC	SHAWHILL	30
16 SEPT	KIDDE GRAYNER LIMITED	WEXHAM PARK	16
16 SEPT	NEWMANS OF CANTERBURY B&W	BRIDGEMORE PARK	45
16 SEPT	RPMS	NORTH HANTS	24
16 SEPT	XOAL LIMITED	THE VALE	40
16 SEPT	YULE CATTO CONSUMER CHEMICALS	BREADSALL PRIORITY	90

Date	Company name	Venue	Players
17 SEPT	A C CLOYD (BUILDERS) LTD	TADMARTON HEATH	40
17 SEPT	BRITISH MIDLAND	DALMAHOY	40
17 SEPT	CUTTS & CO	NORTH HANTS	45
17 SEPT	DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	EDENMORE	30
17 SEPT	FAIRWAYS LIMITED	BROOME PARK	70
18 SEPT	BANK OF IRELAND	LISBURN	30
18 SEPT	WORTHAGE CENTRE		
18 SEPT	SWI THE PARK HOSPITAL	SHERWOOD FOREST	50
18 SEPT	CABLE & WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS LTD	MERTON GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	20
18 SEPT	LAMBERT SMITH HAMPTON	WILMSLOW	50
18 SEPT	NESTLE UK KITCHEN DEPARTMENT	RUDDING PARK	40
18 SEPT	NEXT PLC	LUTTERWORTH	40
18 SEPT	PRO-SPORT INTERNATIONAL LTD	PRILFORD HEATH	40
18 SEPT	SHARDON LEISURE	BRAND HILLS	20
18 SEPT	TAYLOR WOODROW PROPERTY COMPANY LTD	BIRCHWOOD PARK	20
18 SEPT	THE CHANGE PARTNERSHIP LTD	DULWICH & SYDENHAM HILL	40
18 SEPT	AMS HOMES LTD	GOODWOOD	30
18 SEPT	ACCO EUROPE / PROTOOL	GREETHAM VALLEY	90
18 SEPT	BAKEWELL SOLICITORS	BREADSALL PRIORITY	17
18 SEPT	BRITISH STEEL TUBES & PIPES	LUFFENHAM HEATH	40
18 SEPT	CLERICAL MEDICAL INVESTMENT GROUP LTD	PUCKRUP HALL	40
18 SEPT	DOW JONES	HIGH ELMS	40
18 SEPT	E H SMITH (WESTHAVEN) LTD	THE WARRICKSHIRE	20
18 SEPT	GUEST & CHIMES LTD	ROTHERHAM	90
18 SEPT	VOICELAR - VIVADENT LTD	KIRBY MUXLOW	40
18 SEPT	LLOYDS BANK PLC	NAZEING	40
18 SEPT	MITTE GROUP PLC	ST PIERRE	40
18 SEPT	PARC GROUP LIMITED	LUTTRELLSTOWN CASTLE	70
18 SEPT	SKANDIA LIFE	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY	16
18 SEPT	TIPP EX LTD	THE BERKSHIRE	70
18 SEPT	TRANMAN SOLUTIONS LTD	TRACY PARK	10
18 SEPT	TURBOSCOPE VETCO UK LTD	GALLATER	60
18 SEPT	WEBBER LEWIS & ASSOCIATES	SOUTHERNDOWN	60

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interim: Shagden Industries, British Polythene Industries, Country Casuals Holdings, English China Trays, First Russian Frontiers Trust, Novelty Group, Europa Healthcare Group, Hunting, Inciscape, London and Manchester Group, The Morgan Crucible Company, The Premier Group, The Roxboro Group, Scutlions, Sharpe & Fisher, Travis Perkins, Torta Group, Wellington Holdings, Wharman.

TOMORROW

Interim: Acorn Group, William Baird, Britannia Group, British International, Capital Industries, CUS Holdings, Delta, DFS Data & Research Services, Linton Park, John Mowlem & Company, Meridian, Premier Oil, Rexam, SGB Group, Alexander Russell, St James's Place Capital, Taylor Woodrow, Tesco, The Albion Group, Dorling Kindersley Holdings, Hays, Economic Statistics: UK public sector borrowing requirement (Aug), US consumer prices index (Aug).

WEDNESDAY

Interim: BG (Q2), Bormor, Britanic Assurance, Clarendon Garments Holdings, Callender Group, Hardy Oil & Gas, Jang, John Lang, Bernard Matthews, Maybom Group, New PFS Group, Quality Software Products Holdings, The Savoy Hotel, S&U, Trinity International Holdings, Wessall, Walmoughs Holdings, Finalis: M-R Group, Towry Law, Economic Statistics: Minutes of the Bank of England monetary policy committee's August 6-7 meeting; UK retail sales (Aug); UK unemployment (Aug); UK average earnings, unit wage costs (Jul); US housing starts (Aug); Federal Reserve Beige Book.

THURSDAY

Interim: Albright & Wilson, AND International Publishers, British Borneo Petroleum, W. Carrington, Daily Farm International Holdings, Fired Earth, Folkes Group, Gaest, Hanover International, Hongkong Land Holdings, Huntleigh Technology, Kwik-Fit Holdings, Alford McAlpine, Mandarin Oriental International, Wm Morrison Supermarkets, P&O, RMC Group, Service, SCS, Steel Barril Jones Group, Sun Life and Provincial Holdings, Tibbitt & Britten, Tibbitt Douglas, Finalis: Gearhouse Group, Magnum Power, Pantheon International Participations, Economic Statistics: UK provisional M4, final M0 money supply data (Aug); British Bankers Association bank lending (Aug); Building Societies Association building society lending (Aug); CBI monthly industrial trends survey; UK car production (Aug); US trade balance (Jul); US weekly jobless claims.

FRIDAY

Interim: Jardine Matheson Holdings, Jardine Strategic Holdings, Liberty, Charles Taylor Group, Warrants and Value Investment Trust, Finalis: Allied Leisure, Northamber, Economic Statistics: none scheduled.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

City seeks P&O merger news

P&O: The share price was boosted last week, by talk that the group is planning to demerge its Bavis housebuilding division. Interim figures on Thursday, should confirm that the group's restructuring programme is under way.

That said, the performance of the group, whose chairman is Lord Sterling of Plaistow, is likely to be unremarkable, with restructuring costs exacting a toll. Pre-tax profits should be virtually static at £180 million, with earnings per share also flat, at 15p. Positive performance should come from cruises, ferries, Australia, construction and housebuilding to offset lower contributions from containers, bulk products and development properties. However, the main interest will be the restructuring, with brokers looking for news on the proposed merger of the ferry operations of P&O and Stena Line, now before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission before a final ruling from Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade. The payout will remain 13.5p.

TESCO: BZW last week forecast that sales of Britain's biggest food retailer will soar from £14 billion to more than £20 billion over the next five years as its hypermarket expansion intensifies.

Half-year figures tomorrow should confirm that Tesco is clinging on to top slot, with another healthy increase in pre-tax profits envisaged. NatWest Securities, the broker, is forecasting £349 million, up from £321 million for the corresponding period last year, a rise of 9 per cent. Earnings per share are likely to be up from 10.5p to 11.2p.

An increase in like-for-like sales of 5.7 per cent will be largely because of rising inflation and a doubling of Clubcard points on petrol.

Gross margins and operating margins will have stayed flat, and the cost of acquiring ABF Ireland will be included in these figures. The payout is likely to match earnings growth, with a 9 per cent rise from 3.25p to 3.55p forecast.

BG: After last week's losses from Centrica, the City will



Lord Sterling awaits a ruling on P&O's Stena ferries merger from Margaret Beckett

look for a better performance from this half of the newly demerged group. Second-quarter net profits on Wednesday are expected to come in at £64 million, against £63 million last time, with earnings per share unimpaired at 1.4p. That stretches the underlying surplus for the first six months to £482 million. The windfall levy of £54 million will result in write-offs and there may be further provisions of £100 million for restructuring. That could see the group eventually turn in a deficit of £30 million to £40 million.

Transco has already announced further job losses and the board's main aim will be to make its assets sweat and to return value to shareholders. Attention will be on the dividend, expected to be rebased after the demerger. The enlarged group paid 14.5p last

year. That is likely to be cut to 8p, with the interim payout falling from 6.4p to 3.2p.

DALGETY: Two profit warnings and a dividend cut this year suggest dismal full-year figures today. Pre-tax profits are expected to fall from £101.9 million to £61 million, with earnings per share almost halved to 13.7p. There are likely to be exceptional charges of up to £140 million relating to asset writedowns and restructuring of the period operation. Production difficulties, loss of share in a declining animal-feed market and a high pricing policy have made it a miserable year for the group. The payout will shrink from 22p to 14.5p.

KINGFISHER: At first sight, interim figures from the retailer on Wednesday should show

continuing expansion of the Next Directory will underpin an impressive performance. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at £63 million, up from £56 million last time, with earnings per share up by 20 per cent, from 10.9p to 13.1p. In May, the group confirmed that sales in its first 14 weeks had grown strongly in both Retail and the Directory. Overall sales are expected to be up by 24 per cent, with the gross margin maintained and costs reduced. The payout is likely to be up from 5p to 5.5p.

RM GROUP: The tide seems to have turned, with a much better performance expected in half-year figures on Thursday. Results from its two main markets, Britain and Germany, should show distinct improvement on last year's depressed levels and help to lift pre-tax profits from £95.8 million to £110 million. Increased volumes of ready-mixed concrete and a 3 per cent price rise in March will boost domestic profits. In Germany, improved efficiency will go some way to offset a stronger pound. Earnings should rise 10 per cent, to 24.4p. The payout is likely to be 8p, against 7.5p last time.

HAYS: A strong performance from its personnel division should underpin a useful rise in full-year figures tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are set to come in at £153.3 million, against £132 million last time, with earnings per share up 15 per cent, to 25.7p. Organic growth on the personnel side is expected to be almost 40 per cent, mainly from increased revenue and improved margins. Distribution will have struggled and declining margins will have plagued the commercial operation. The payout should rise from 8.1p to 9.5p.

INCHCAPE: The sale of non-core operations will result in lower half-year figures today. However, there should be further evidence of recovery. Pre-tax profits of £73.8 million are forecast, against £52.8 million last time. Earnings per share should be down about 18 per cent, but the dividend is likely to rise from 4.2p to 4.5p.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Wates, Kier, Lincat. Sell William Ransom. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Redrow, MICE, CNC Properties. Sell GEC, Eurodisney, Kingfisher. The Observer: Sell United Biscuits, British Energy. The Express on Sunday: Buy Psion, Schroders.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6083 (+0.0225)
German mark 2.8467 (-0.0188)
Exchange index 100.1 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 3133.6 (-50.9)
FTSE 100 4848.2 (-146.0)
New York Dow Jones 7742.97 (-79.44)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 17965.80 (-684.37)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.32	2.14
Austria Sch	21.13	19.47
Belgium Fr	62.24	57.28
Canada \$	2.354	2.166
Cyprus Cyp£	0.889	0.818
Denmark Kr	11.48	10.58
Finland Mk	6.12	5.37
France Fr	10.09	9.31
Germany Dm	3.02	2.78
Greece Dr	476	437
Hong Kong \$	13.23	12.03
Iceland	128	108
Ireland Pt	1.12	1.03
Israel Sh	6.23	5.28
Italy Lira	2970	2733
Japan Yen	209.73	192.20
Malta	0.685	0.608
Netherlands Gld	3.43	3.118
New Zealand \$	2.88	2.44
Norway Kr	12.38	11.44
Portugal Esc	303.03	281.00
S Africa Rd	8.23	7.27
Spain Pta	252.79	234.00
Sweden Kr	13.17	12.07
Switzerland Fr	8.22	7.50
Turkey Lira	281578	261700
USA \$	1.707	1.584

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

AUTOCOID

(a) A drug produced by the organs of internal secretion. Daily Express: "There are chemical substances of a drug-like character, distributed by the circulation of the blood, to act where they are needed upon various organs or tissues. They are best referred to as autocoids. Amongst the best known substances are adrenaline, thyroxine and insulin."

DIRAC

(b) Various attempts were made in the early Twenties to obtain more precise agreement between the experimental observation and the theoretical prediction of atomic spectral emissions. Schrodinger's attempts in 1926 were unsuccessful but Dirac, with a mathematical description of the electron in 1928, not only solved the problem but led to a profound insight of the nature of matter. Dirac is among a handful of men in the early 20th century whose capacity for abstract and original thought spawned a revolution in the world of physics.

APLUSTRE

(c) The curved and ornamental stern of an ancient Greek or Roman ship. Addison, Italy, 1708: "The one holds a sword in her hand to represent the *Illiad* as the other has an aplustre to represent the *Odysssey* or *voyages of Ulysses*."

BARBAROSSA

(d) The code name for Germany's invasion of Russia on 21 June 1941. After initial devastating success, it ground to a halt and was finally repulsed. Various reasons for the failure: the difficulty of the terrain and inadequate roads; General Winter: Russian tanks operated on diesel (German ran on petrol) so that captured stocks were useless; most of all by Hitler's diversion of the main thrust away from Moscow towards outfields in the south. It has been argued that if Germany had gone in as liberators, especially in the south, things might have turned out differently. One general, von Kleist, demonstrated this. Discuss.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxe5! hxg5 2 Qxg5+ Kh7 3 Rxd4 and mate follows.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Focus on why tigers burn less brightly

It is pure coincidence that the world's finance ministers are heading to South-East Asia this week for a series of meetings which culminates with the IMF annual get-together in Hong Kong next weekend. But inevitably the region's current economic problems will top the agenda. Earlier in the week, Gordon Brown will be flagging new debt relief measures at the Commonwealth finance ministers' meeting in Mauritius, while European leaders will try to sell the euro to the East at the first meeting of the European and Asian finance ministers' group in Bangkok. Back in the UK, Wednesday's double dose of data will provide a strong clue as to whether the Bank of England's decision not to raise rates this month is merely a brief lull or represents a more fundamental shift in policy. The August retail sales figures are expected to be comparatively subdued. MMS International, the economics forecaster, predicts a monthly fall in sales of 0.3 per cent, sending the annual rate of

growth down to 4.8 per cent from 6.5 per cent in July.

Unemployment, however, is expected to fall again in August at the more modest rate of 15,000 compared with 50,000 in July. MMS predicts annual growth in average earnings to rise from 4.25 per cent to 4.5 per cent.

The publication on Tuesday of the minutes to August's monetary policy committee meeting will also throw some light on the future outlook for rates.

The PSBR figures on Tuesday are expected to show the Government on course to undershoot its £11 billion target. MMS predicts borrowing of £1.7 billion, well below last year. The CBI industrial trends survey is on Thursday. On Friday the measure of broad money supply, M4, is forecast to rise from an annual rate of growth of 11.8 per cent to 12.3 per cent.

In the US, the main focus will be the consumer price inflation figures on Tuesday. The monthly rate is forecast to rise from 0.2 per cent to 0.3 per cent.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

Revised Interest Rates For Accounts No Longer Open To New Investors.

Amended Investment and Savings Rates. Effective from 15th September, 1997.

Minimum Investment	Gross*	Gross CAR**	Net†
Bonus Builder (Annually)**			
£100,000+	6.75%	-	5.40%
£50,000	6.25%	-	5.00%
£20,000	6.00%	-	4.80%
£10,000	5.50%	-	4.40%
£5,000	5.00%	-	4.00%
Bonus Builder (Monthly)**			
£100,000+	6.55%	-	5.24%
£50,000	6.10%	-	4.88%
£20,000	5.85%	-	4.68%
£10,000	5.35%	-	4.28%
£5,000	4.90%	-	3.92%
High Interest Account (Annually)			
£100,000+	6.00%	-	4.80%
£50,000	5.50%	-	4.40%
£20,000	5.25%	-	4.20%
£10,000	4.75%	-	3.80%
£5,000	4.25%	-	3.40%
Monthly Income Account			
£100,000+	5.80%	5.96%	4.64%
£50,000	5.35%	5.48%	4.28%
£20,000	5.10%	5.22%	4.08%
£10,000	4.65%	4.75%	3.72%
£5,000	4.15%	4.23%	3.32%
£2,500	3.50%	3.56%	2.80%
Flexible Savings Account (Annually)			
£20,000+	4.00%	-	3.20%
£10,000	3.50%	-	2.80%
£5,000	3.25%	-	2.60%
£2,500	3.00%	-	2.40%
£500	2.50%	-	2.00%
£250	0.35%	-	0.28%
£100	0.10%	-	0.08%
Instant Access (Annually)			
£20,000+	4.00%	-	3.20%
£10,000	3.50%	-	2.80%
£5,000	3.25%	-	2.60%
£2,500	3.00%	-	2.40%
£500	2.50%	-	2.00%
£250	0.35%	-	0.28%
£100	0.10%	-	0.08%
TESSAS			
Platinum TESSA (1st Issue)	7.25% tax free**		
Monthly TESSA (1st Issue)	7.00% tax free**		
Flexi TESSA (1st Issue)	6.75% tax free**		

*Without UK income tax deducted. **Annual return if monthly interest payments remain in the account. †Assuming rate of income tax at 20%. ††Including a 0.50% gross bonus for 1997 where no withdrawals have been made. *The minimum balance for customers aged under 23 is £100. The minimum for all other customers is £500. **Free of UK income tax. CAR and net rates are illustrative only and have been rounded to two decimal places. Interest will be payable net of the applicable rate of income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or gross, subject to the required registration. Rates may vary but are correct at the time of going to press. FOR INFORMATION: Interest rates on some other accounts have also changed from the same date. Details of interest rates paid on other accounts are available from any Britannia branch. You may be unsure as to whether your existing account is the best one for you. If so, please call into your local branch where we will be happy to explain the various schemes in detail.

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CHANGING TIMES

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Fall in unemployment need not lead to wage inflation

While in Opposition, Labour spokesmen regularly berated the Conservatives for the appalling level of unemployment. Now they are in government they can rejoice in sharp falls in the jobless total. On recent form they will again be able to sing the praises of Britain's flexible labour markets on Wednesday, when the latest unemployment figures are published.

The consensus view is that the unemployment rate is already dangerously low and threatens the emergence of accelerating wage inflation. But in economics you have to learn to beware the consensus. It is not so long ago that fashionable opinion regarded double-digit unemployment rates as an inescapable feature of the modern world. There simply weren't enough jobs to go round. And as technological change and the forces of globalisation and downsizing took hold, there would be even fewer.

Among British economists this thinking is thankfully dead, but it is still alive and well in Paris, where the Socialist Government talks about penalising workers who put in "too many" hours, and sharing out the supposedly limited amount of work as fairly as possible.

You do not have to be John Maynard Keynes to find this view distinctly odd. People have been displaced by machines for many a long year now yet new jobs have always sprung up to take the place of the old. Why should it be any

different now? Moreover, it is surely strange that something so obviously wealth-creating as the remarkable contemporary developments in technology should be regarded as leading to such negative results.

In the two Anglo-Saxon economies that have experienced wrenching change, unemployment is down to levels which seemed unimaginable even a short time ago. In the UK the rate is down to 5.5 per cent, while in the US it is below 5 per cent. Yet there is still no sign of accelerating wage inflation in either country.

The links between the level of unemployment and the rate of inflation were always more flexible than was commonly supposed. Economists recognised two sorts of unemployment. The first was structural and arose from the ebb and flow of supply and demand in different sectors of the economy. This was an unfortunate necessity.

But the second was intentional. The idea was that the higher the level of unemployment, the greater would be the degree of competition in the jobs market. Once the unemployment rate fell "too low" wages would be bid up and inflation would ensue. So unemployment was the price that had to be paid to keep inflation



ROGER BOOTLE

down. In the early Eighties, it seemed that this price was extraordinarily high as unemployment soared to levels not seen since the Thirties, while inflation was still at too high a level.

Yet much of the unemployment of the early Eighties was structural. It arose from the collapse of large numbers of manufacturing companies and the sharp job-loss programmes of those that remained. Many of those made unemployed by this experience failed to compete in the labour market at all. They lived in the wrong place, with the wrong skills, or no skills at all. As such, not only did they not produce anything but they failed even to fulfil the role

ascribed to them by economic theory. Their unemployment served no economic purpose whatsoever.

To get these people off the unemployment register, what was required was not so much economic recovery as a social and economic revolution — the development of a thriving service sector and the employee attitudes to match. Many middle-aged men would never make this transition. So reducing the unemployment rate would mean a slow grind as these people grew older and passed out of the workforce, leaving their young equivalents to take jobs in the service sector. This adjustment is far from complete but it is well under way. So the level of structural unemployment has fallen and will probably fall still further.

Meanwhile, the degree of unemployment needed to keep in check workers' natural ambitions for more money has also fallen. In this country it is common to ascribe this to the collapse of trade union militancy following the legal changes imposed in the Thatcher years. But far-reaching though the influence of Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister was, it is difficult to see her as responsible for the

collapse of labour militancy more or less everywhere in the world. Rather, rapid technological change, increased competition and globalisation have weakened the power of labour. The result is that unemployment can now fall to low levels without triggering an acceleration of wage inflation.

Should we be surprised? The sustainable level of unemployment is one aspect of the efficiency of an economy. In both Britain and America, businesses have become much more efficient. Stock levels are pared to a minimum. Capital equipment is utilised to its maximum. Thanks to one area shift to meet shortages in another. Unemployment represents the stock of unused labour. Wouldn't it be odd if the increased efficiency of our economies did not affect this also?

What is the limit? In the quarter century after 1950 Britain's unemployment rate averaged less than 2 per cent. At the time this was regarded as normal. When it rose above 5 per cent in 1975 this was widely regarded as a disaster. Ten years later, when the unemployment rate was in double figures, this former nightmare level was seen as an impossible dream. Double-digit unemployment was then thought to be the norm.

There is nothing sacrosanct about 5.5 per cent unemployment. The rate could fall a lot further. As for our friends across the Channel, at some stage the penny — if not the franc — will drop.

China seeks the limelight as IMF circus rolls into Hong Kong

Janet Bush on the issues that will engross this week's round of economic gatherings

China long campaigned for Hong Kong to play host to the 1997 annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, hoping that its newly minted economic reforms would attract the approval of the world.

Only last week, China set the stage when its 15th Communist Party congress unveiled plans for a mass sell-off of state enterprises — the biggest privatisation programme the world has seen. Tomorrow, the World Bank report, *China 2020*, will highlight the People's Republic's economic coming of age.

But as any political spin-doctor knows, the most careful planning cannot anticipate sudden turns of event. The crisis in East Asian markets is destined to dominate this week's international meetings, ensuring that the world's glare falls on the region at one of the most uncomfortable junctures in its history.

A packed week of international meetings and a meaty

markets, the IMF's Thailand rescue package and the implications of abandoning currency pegs all over the region.

Ministers will be asking whether the international community could have headed off the collapse and where the next crisis might blow up. They will emphasise the importance of well-regulated financial sectors and good political governance, and, in particular, developing greater transparency.

The debates will continue with added ferocity in Hong Kong, in the forum of the Group of Seven industrialised nations (G7) on Saturday, and within the IMF and World Bank meetings. Inevitably, the weak state of the Japanese economy will come under scrutiny in G7 after last week's announcement of the worst quarterly growth figures for 23 years.

Japanese economic torpor and increasing competitive pressures from a reformist China are both significant challenges to the future performance of the Asian tiger economies.

The Asian miracle will never have received such critical scrutiny.

But the IMF and World Bank meetings will also try to carry on their normal business. There will be much discussion of debt relief, of the financial position of the Fund, still the

world's crisis lender, with impending debates on quotas and a new SDR allocation, and of the progress — or otherwise — of developing countries.

The World Bank is predicting an unprecedented boost in the prominence of developing countries over the next quarter of a century. The "big five" — Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and Russia — currently have a share of world trade barely a third of that enjoyed by the European Union. By 2020, the Bank believes that this could surge to 50 per cent higher than that of the EU.

The astonishing implications of the emergence of new manufacturing, trading and consuming superpowers will increasingly capture the imagination and challenge policymakers.



Brown: in demand

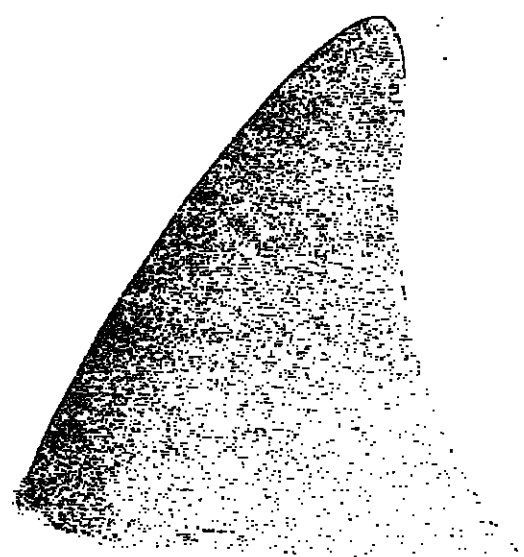
hand his account of an action-packed first 100 days.

Gordon Brown emerges from the rigours of European policy and euro currency conversion rates in Luxembourg at the weekend to travel to Mauritius for his first meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers tomorrow and Wednesday. There he will try to reinforce international momentum towards debt relief.

He then moves to Bangkok on Thursday and Friday for the first meeting of ASEM, a grouping of Asian and European finance ministers set up to compete with America's monopoly on strategic networking with the Far East. Europe wanted to express its long-term interests in Asia and vice versa. Inevitably, discussion will be dominated by the collapse of Asian stock

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Keep our opinions to yourself.

It's all very well to say share and-share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy at leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself.

FE FOCUS

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

CABLE & WIRELESS

Scottish pensions could benefit from devolution

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

SCOTS may lose out because of higher taxes after last week's devolution vote, but will gain through better pensions, it has emerged.

Businesses face a £50 million bill and an extra administrative headache after Scotland's vote for its own parliament with tax-raising powers. But nearly 400,000 Scots will get improved pensions if the new assembly does

decide to flex its fiscal powers, with the Scottish parliament able to raise or lower basic income tax by 3 per cent.

Any adjustment by the assembly, however, will automatically increase the wages bill of the 20,000 companies with operations north and south of the border. They will have to set up two PAYE systems to reflect the different tax treatment of their workers.

The Inland Revenue has estimated that employers will incur costs of £50 million in upgrading PAYE systems.

Pensioners companies could suffer twice over. They will have to adapt their systems to enable them to differentiate between pensioners in Scotland from the rest of the UK. The Association of British Insurers said on Friday that it is looking at the implications of the 'yes' vote.

Although opponents of devolution made much of the powers to increase the Scottish voters' tax bills, an increase in taxation will actually give many Scots better pensions. This is because people paying into pension plans get the benefit of tax relief on contributions. If Scotland raises the basic level of income tax by 3p, basic rate payers in Scotland will be able to reclaim 20p from the tax man for every £1 they put into a pension, compared to 23p in England.

Alasdair Buchanan, marketing consultant at Scottish Life, said: "This effect would more than offset the increase in taxation Scots pensioners would have to pay at retirement."

Independent to cut 40 jobs in relaunch

The Independent, the troubled national newspaper controlled by Mirror Group and by Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers, is to relaunch tomorrow with a multimillion-pound marketing campaign, higher cover price and widespread redundancies (Raymond Snoddy writes).

The weekday cover price is expected to rise by 5p to 45p before the end of the month. The relaunch will be

combined with another restructuring that will largely pay for the relaunch. Forty jobs are expected to go over the next six months, with a smaller number of page editors replacing sub-editors to streamline the production process.

Losses have been coming down sharply and the daily and Sunday papers are expected to break into operating profit in the second half of next year.



Insurance claims pending after the IRA bombing in Manchester mean negotiations for the Arndale Centre are complex

CSC in talks to buy £300m Arndale Centre

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

CAPITAL SHOPPING CENTRES, owner of the Lakeside mall in Thurrock, Essex, and MetroCentre in Gateshead, is in talks with P&O to buy the bomb-damaged Arndale Centre in Manchester for about £300 million.

Negotiations are complex because of

the involvement of the local authority as freeholder and because there are big insurance claims pending after last year's IRA bombing. It is therefore thought unlikely that P&O will be in a position to announce the deal at the time of its interim results on Thursday.

P&O is talking exclusively to CSC, although Chelmsford, the property com-

pany led by Elliott Bernerd, and Prudential, one of Britain's largest property investors, are also thought to be interested. The Arndale acquisition would be Britain's biggest property deal since 1995, when CSC bought Gateshead's MetroCentre for £325 million.

City awaits P&O news, page 43

Advertising target for Chime

Chime Communications, the public relations group headed by Sir Tim Bell, is in talks to buy Howell Henry Chaldecott Lury, the advertising agency famous for its work on Tango and Martini among others, for an estimated £20 million. The deal, if agreed, will double the size of Chime and bring Sir Tim back into the advertising world, which he left in 1985 after resigning from Saatchi & Saatchi.

Sir Tim would not comment at the weekend, but it is well known that Chime has been looking for a substantial acquisition to diversify the business away from its core of PR. The group has been in talks with a number of groups but strongly denied suggestions that Sir Tim might tie up again with his former business associates, Lord Saatchi and his brother Charles, by buying their two-year-old operation, M&C Saatchi.

GE Capital's Stalwart stake

GE Capital, the US conglomerate, will today announce the purchase of a 60 per cent controlling stake in Stalwart Group, the UK insurance company that sells home income plans to elderly people. The schemes allow elderly homeowners to exchange their property freeholds for rent-free accommodation and annuity income. GE Capital bought the stake in Stalwart from European Acquisition Capital, the UK venture capital fund. The deal will value Stalwart at about £43 million, more than triple its value three years ago when EAC bought the company.

World energy expansion

World energy is poised for a £2 trillion expansion by 2020 according to PowerGen, the UK generator, which forecasts that energy demand will double by that date. In a report published today, PowerGen predicts that the jump in energy demand will increase the drive towards privatisation and deregulation as governments look to private cash to boost energy development. The report, coinciding with the opening of the World Economic Development Congress, expects a growth in independent projects built, financed and operated by international consortia.

BSA throws its weight behind Welfare to Work

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the biggest commitments to the Government's Welfare to Work programme will today be made when a large number of the UK's outsourcing companies sign up to the scheme.

The British Services Association, which represents companies employing 300,000 workers, and which have sales of £4 billion, is likely to offer about 2,000 places for the New Deal scheme which aims to put 250,000 unemployed young people into jobs.

The BSA has been in talks with the Department for Education and Employment since the election. Its members work in all aspects of business services from catering to cleaning to facilities management. Its commitment to the scheme marks the first industry-wide initiative.

Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister, said: "The New Deal is about making young people more employ-



Smith: welcomed support

able and integrating their needs to the needs of business. We welcome the support of the BSA with their commitment to provide quality opportunities for many young people in the catering and business service sector. This will give them the chance to get into a fast-growing industry."

Garry Hawkes, chairman of Gardner Merchant and chairman of the BSA, said:

"We were keen to respond to the Government's Welfare to Work initiative on terms that would benefit the young people concerned and would meet the needs of our industry. BSA's national model has been constructed to ensure that young people who have been accustomed to long-term welfare may soon be accustomed to long-term work."

The BSA's pledge to participate in the programme follows commitments already outlined by Tesco and Allied Domecq. The BSA says that because it implements a national training programme throughout its member companies the skills learned by young people will be more likely to translate into permanent jobs.

The move comes as a survey by 3i, the venture capital group, shows a rise in companies willing to join in the Welfare to Work scheme. Of 473 firms surveyed, 30 per cent said they had taken on people in government schemes and 35 per cent were willing.

Mutual life firms beat rivals on efficiency

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

MUTUAL insurance companies are more cost efficient than their quoted rivals, with Equitable Life leading the pack as the most efficient operator, a new report claims.

The study of the UK life insurance industry by Fox-Pitt Kelton, the broker, strongly supports firms such as Standard Life and Equitable Life, which have resisted the temptation of the stock market.

Fox-Pitt finds that Equitable Life, a leading mutual, "is in a league of its own as far as cost efficiency is concerned". The best of the rest is Scottish Widows, while Co-operative Insurance (CIS) has a "very creditable acquisition cost ratio", reflecting the effectiveness of using one salesforce to sell both life and non-life policies. Nonetheless, all the other life insurers are a long way behind Equitable Life.

A comparison of administrative cost ratios shows that shareholder ownership and the attendant profit motive do not lead to greater efficiency. The average ratio for administrative expenses to technical reserves is 0.52 per cent among mutuals, and 0.64 per cent among quoted companies. Fox-Pitt argues that there is scope for the industry to increase its operating efficiency, with other companies having plenty of scope to emulate Equitable Life's administrative expenses ratio of 0.18 per cent.

The industry must offer better value for money, implying a change of culture and further consolidation, the report says. The effect on profits would be uncertain but would probably mean higher volumes and lower margins.

JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP plc

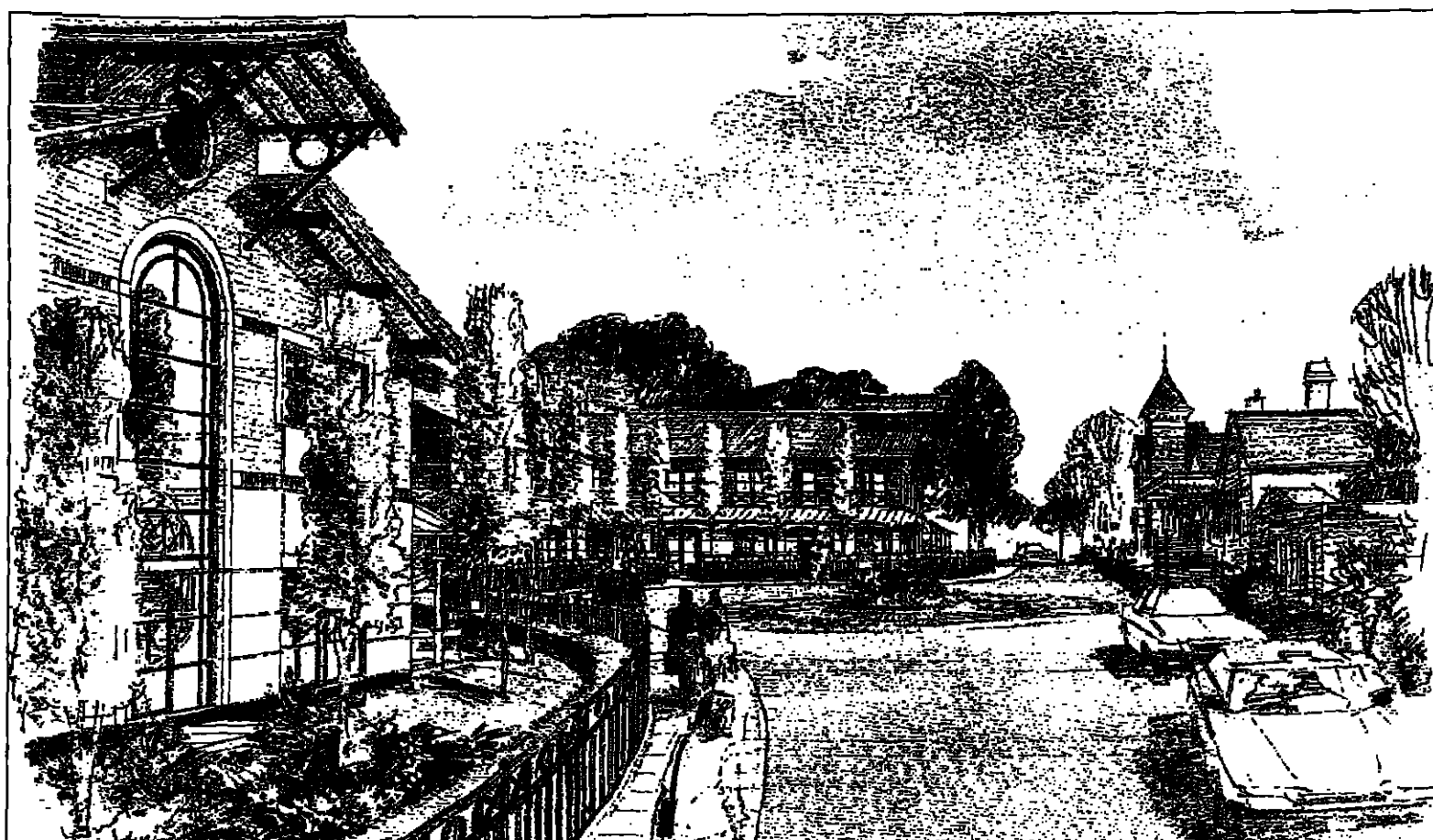
Department stores and Waitrose supermarkets

Consolidated unaudited results for the half year ended 26 July 1997

	1997 £m	1996 £m	change %
Sales (including VAT)	1577.6	1468.0	7
Trading profit	105.6	90.2	17
Interest	11.0	12.1	
Profit before taxation	94.6	78.1	21
Taxation	31.2	27.5	
Preference dividends	0.1	0.1	
Surplus available for profit sharing and retentions	63.3	50.5	25
Sales			
Sales increased by £73 million (10%) in the department store division and £36 million (5%) in Waitrose supermarkets.			
Profit			
Pre-tax profit increased by £17 million (21%).			
Profit sharing			
Allocation between retentions and profit sharing is determined when the results for the year are known. The taxation charge for the year will depend on the rate of profit sharing.			
For further details telephone 0171-828 1000 extension 6220.			

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1997	Low	Mid cap (millions)	Price pence	Wtd +/-	Ytd %	P/E	1997	Low	Mid cap (millions)	Price pence	Wtd +/-	Ytd %	P/E
1394	100%	14.30 AFA Systems	119				1314	62%	5.33 Jamin	130	+3	10.9	
1395	131%	19.80 AMCO Corp	138			6.9	1315	200	25.00 Jannings Bros	338	-2	2.8	20.9
1396	101%	48.70 AND Inc Pub	122				1316	4%	4.84 J Lark Hand	29			16.8
1397	84%	8.24 Abacus Renewal	126			1.5	1317	5%	1.85 Jaxco	43			
1398	99%	28.20 Access Plus	91			3.9	1318	5%	4.63 Jax Group	19			
1399	9%	3.81 Active Imaging	97				1319	8%	3.81 Jaxco	19			22.1
1400	200	30.30 A de Gaudy	205	-5	4.3	31.3	1320	17%	17.10 Jaxco Ltd	176	+1	1.4	14.7
1401	71%	3.23 African Gold	75				1321	12%	1.25 Jaxco	122	+2	4.3	16.7
1402	72%	1.40 Adrenale & Bd	38	+5	1.6		1322	30%	18.90 La Seta	30	-29%		5.7
1403	21%	2.45 Aloyne	31				1323	15%	1.25 Jaxco	96	-12%	5.7	16.3
1404	29%	2.40 Anglo-Mech	77				1324	34%	26.90 Lawrence Group	350	+9	2.5	16.3
1405	45%	58.80 Ann St Brewery	610	+5	4.2	12.3	1325	12%	1.25 Jaxco	122	+2	4.3	16.7
1406	101%	7.30 Ann St Cy Pl	122	+2	6.5		1326	12%	1.25 Jaxco	122	+2	4.3	16.7
1407	12%	67.00 Anson	119				1327	12%	1.25 Jaxco	122	+2	4.3	16.7
1408	99%	20.50 Aoroch	119				1328	12%	1.25 Jaxco	122	+2	4.3	16.7
1409	90%	9.18 Archer Dedicated	30			2.2	1329	12%	1.25 Jaxco	122	+2	4.3	16.7
1410	90%	6.40 Aron Press	27				1330	12%	1.25 Jaxco	122	+2	4.3	16.7
1411	30%	34.60 Ashford	40				1331	12%	1.25 Jaxco	122	+2	4.3	16.7
1412	13%	45.80 Ash Central	220			0.9	1332	12%	1.25 Jaxco	122	+2	4.3	16.7
1413	54%	1.20 Ashfield Invest	120			1.3	1333	12%	1.25 Jaxco	122	+2	4.3	16.7
1414	130%	53.80 Avonon Ltd	70				1334	12%	1.25 Jaxco	122	+2	4.3	16.7
1415	130%	43.00 BATHM Adv Comm	101			2.4	1335	12%	1.25 Jaxco	122	+2	4.3	16.7
1416	3%	2.57 Baxby Services	28			19.1	1336	12%	1.25 Jaxco	122	+2	4.3	16.7
1417	5%	5.50 Baxby Health	28				1337	12%	1.25 Jaxco	122	+2	4.3	16.7
1418	12%	3.20 Baxby	12			2.7	1338	12%	1.25 Jaxco	122	+2	4.3	16.7
1419	4%	2.70 Baxby	12			2.4	1339	12%	1.25 Jaxco	122	+2	4.3	16.7
1420	30%	38.00 Baxby	38			3.5	1340	12%	1.25 Jaxco	122	+2	4.3	16.7
1421	80%	1.25 Baxby	74			3.4	1341	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1422	79%	4.81 Baxby	74			3.4	1342	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1423	64%	26.00 Baxby	74			3.4	1343	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1424	70%	1.54 Baxby	74			3.4	1344	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1425	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1345	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1426	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1346	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1427	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1347	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1428	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1348	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1429	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1349	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1430	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1350	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1431	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1351	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1432	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1352	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1433	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1353	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1434	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1354	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1435	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1355	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1436	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1356	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1437	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1357	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1438	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1358	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1439	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1359	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1440	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1360	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1441	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1361	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1442	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1362	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1443	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1363	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1444	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1364	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1445	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1365	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1446	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1366	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1447	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1367	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1448	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1368	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1449	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1369	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1450	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1370	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1451	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1371	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1452	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1372	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1453	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1373	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1454	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1374	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1455	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1375	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1456	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1376	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1457	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1377	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1458	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1378	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1459	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1379	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1460	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1380	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1461	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1381	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1462	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1382	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1463	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1383	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1464	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1384	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1465	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1385	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1466	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1386	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1467	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1387	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1468	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1388	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1469	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1389	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1470	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1390	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1471	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1391	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1472	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1392	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1473	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1393	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1474	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1394	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1475	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1395	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1476	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1396	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1477	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1397	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1478	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1398	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1479	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1399	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1480	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1400	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1481	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1401	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1482	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1402	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1483	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1403	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1484	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1404	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1485	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1405	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1486	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1406	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1487	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1407	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1488	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1408	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1489	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1409	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1490	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1410	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1491	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1411	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1492	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1412	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1493	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1413	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1494	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1414	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1495	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1415	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1496	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1416	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1497	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1417	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1498	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1418	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1499	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1419	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4
1500	14%	1.40 Baxby	74			3.4	1420	12%	1.25 Jaxby	74			3.4



Prime real estate: an artist's impression of the 43,000 sq ft office development Railtrack plans for the land around Leatherhead railway station

Action stations as Railtrack builds up property riches

The owner of Britain's railway infrastructure is sitting on a goldmine, writes Mark Court

A new structure is rising above Leatherhead in Surrey. Railtrack, the owner of Britain's railway infrastructure, is turning the land around the commuter station into a 43,000 sq ft office development.

It seems these days that Railtrack is determined not only to concrete over most of Surrey, but also confirm the view of many City analysts at the time of privatisation, that the group was a property company that just happened to run a few railway lines on the side. This view fuelled the fears of John Prescott, then Labour's transport spokesman, now the deputy Prime Minister, that the Government was selling off valuable property interests on the cheap.

Railtrack's flotation prospectus said it would make £1 billion from property by 2001. But it appears that it will make much more and could bolster profits over the next couple of years by a further £200 million. Since flotation, Railtrack has

been quietly exploiting its vast property portfolio, which ranges from major stations to railway arches, from small strips of land to former freight yards. But the company's property division, under property director Bob Hill, is reluctant to advertise its efforts for fear of upsetting Mr Prescott. A City source said: "Railtrack is very reluctant to put their property interests in the public arena because they don't want it getting back to Prescott. But the development potential is unbelievable. Railtrack is sitting on an absolute goldmine."

A surveyor close to Railtrack added: "There is a lot more activity than people are aware of. Railtrack is gearing up for a big push on development."

In its flotation prospectus, Railtrack estimated that it would make one billion

pounds from its property portfolio in the six years to 2001, of which £250 million would come from disposals. Since then, property prices have risen more than 10 per cent and privately Railtrack admits that the pace of development and the profits coming in are much greater than expected.

A City source said: "Railtrack has told us that the £1 billion forecast in the prospectus will be exceeded. The problem is they say one story in private and another in public. I think they will report around £1.2 billion, but with a lot of equity investments this will actually understate the real figure."

The City is keen to get more details of the value locked up in Railtrack's property portfolio. Alan Carter, a property analyst at BZW, said: "At the time of the flotation, we said

that it was impossible to put a figure on what the property portfolio was genuinely worth because it is a series of one-off situations. There's obviously land in there of immense value. Just by doing nothing they are sitting on an asset that is appreciating in value."

But evidence suggests that the property department is extremely busy. Teams of architects, surveyors and developers are working on detailed master plans for all of Railtrack's major stations and the group has a total of 250 projects at various stages.

In the next few weeks, Railtrack will seek planning permission for a £120 million complex of offices, shops and leisure facilities to be built above Richmond station in Surrey. Railtrack is planning other "air rights" schemes. But the high capital cost of con-

struction, at around £400 per square foot, means they are unlikely to be built outside of the South East.

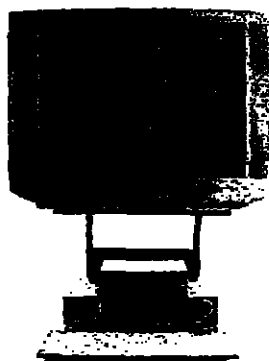
Surrey is at the forefront of Railtrack's property push, with almost a dozen schemes. Mr Hill said: "In terms of offices outside of the central London area, Surrey is one of the best places to be."

The Surrey developments are dwarfed by plans Railtrack has for its main stations. Huge office schemes are planned in London at Paddington, King's Cross and London Bridge, as well as a further phase of the Broadgate development at Liverpool Street. A huge office scheme in Edinburgh is high on the list of priorities, and in Leeds work is about to start on a 100,000 sq ft retail and office scheme. Mr Hill said: "Increasingly we are bringing opportunities to the market as the market warms up."

Railtrack also has the advantage of recent changes to government planning rules that emphasise the importance of public transport. One analyst said: "Planning guidance note (PPG) 13 effectively said that if a development depends on road transport then it should not be given planning permission. This means the trophy site in almost every town is above or beside a railway station."

The big supermarkets, whose out of town stores were a key factor in the introduction of PPG 13, have already turned their attentions to railway stations. Tesco has been in negotiations with Railtrack and the local council in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, with a view to building a supermarket over the station.

"Oi, there's a film on tonight with George Clooney in it."



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CABLE & WIRELESS

Railtrack's property portfolio has been something of a sleeping giant, but the giant is now stirring. An army of building workers, bulldozers and cranes will soon be pulling in to a station near you.

TELEVISION CHOICE

A new working-class hero

A Prince Among Men

BBC1, 8.30pm

This is a new comedy vehicle for Chris Barrie, no doubt anxious to bury the supernumerary Gordon Brittas which he played so well for so long. Barrie's new character is Gary Prince (hence the somewhat lame title), a former footballer and currently an entrepreneur, television personality and all-purpose working-class hero. He lives in mock-Tudor Cheshire with a German wife and a staff of sycophants and, to emphasise that he is not Brittas Mark Two, Barrie plays him with a curly hairstyle and a Liverpool accent. From the evidence of the opening episode the comic focus is hard to discern. Like Brittas, Prince is less important than he thinks he is and gets slapped down, though this seems hardly enough to sustain a series. But first episodes tend to be warming-up exercises and we must hope that the writers, Tony Millan and Mike Walling, have more to say.

Decisive Weapons: Aircraft Carrier

BBC2, 8.00pm

The second programme in a very watchable series uses two episodes from the Second World War to illustrate a profound change in the nature of naval combat. The first is the destruction by the Japanese, at Pearl Harbor, of the United States Pacific Fleet. The second is the American revenge, seven months later, at the Battle of Midway. The common, crucial factor in both engagements was the aircraft carrier. With the help of first-hand accounts from American and Japanese veterans, the film traces the development of the carrier from tentative beginnings in the 1920s to a new weapon of war. It meant that at Pearl Harbor the Japanese were able to launch their air attacks from 275 miles away, while at Midway the ships of the two fleets did not even see each other.

Equinox: A Very British Bomb

Channel 4, 9.00pm

The development of the British atom bomb is partly a political story and partly a scientific one and, as this excellent documentary shows, the two became intermeshed. During the war British scientists had worked with their American colleagues on the Manhattan Project. After the war



Chris Barrie stars (BBC1, 8.30pm)

the United States decided it would no longer share its nuclear know-how. Stung by this rebuff, the Atomic Energy Commission decided that Britain must have its own nuclear weapon. William Penney, a blast expert who had worked on the American bomb, was put in charge. The exercise was conducted amid the utmost secrecy but with so little security that the vital plutonium was transported by road without a police escort. First-hand accounts from the scientists involved, and previously classified footage, lend colour to an absorbing account.

Picture This: Waiting

BBC2, 9.30pm

The series of documentaries by emerging directors opens with a film by Joanna Bailey about those whose job it is to wait at table. It is an unusual subject and Bailey does not disappoint, even if she overdoes the arty camera angles and other visual gimmickry. She interviews the stories of five people, clearly chosen for variety and contrast. Ellen, a middle-aged woman who works for the upper company which provides meals for the upper classes, Ellen became a waitress because she missed out on education and could not read. She still cannot. Pam reveals an unhappy, not to say tragic, domestic life. We also meet the genial head of a restaurant run by a Burmese family and a young Serb whose uninhibited use of English tends to startle the diners in respectable Torquay.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Speak After The Beep

Radio 4, 8.45am

Radio 4 has a delayed decision on axing Yesterday in Parliament so those of us who wish to see an end to it are unashamedly lobbying to increase the audiences for programmes like this, which replace YIP during the parliamentary recess. But the return of Speak after the Beep warrants attention in any event, for it brings together, besides the writing of Michael Frayn and the acting of Martin Jarvis, today's story - there are five, one on each day this week - is about an opera singer being interviewed backstage during breaks in her performance. Jarvis plays all the parts, which, later in the week, include the flight crew of a jumbo jet and Mr and Mrs God. These programmes are minor gems.

Radio 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe and Boy Lard with the Breakfast Show 9.00am Saxon 12.00pm Mary Anne Hobbes. Includes 12.30pm Newsday 2.00pm 7.30pm Campbell 4.00pm Kevin Greening 6.15pm Newsday 6.30pm Evening Session with Steve Lamacz 8.30pm Live Music Update with Bryony Smale 8.40pm Andy Kershaw. Includes a live session by Maria Vanecko 10.30pm Charlie Jordan 1.00am Cite Warren 4.00pm Chris Moyles

Radio 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30pm Wake Up to Wogan 9.30pm Ken Bruce 11.30pm Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Dingle 3.00pm Ed Stewart 5.00pm Johnnie Walker 7.00pm Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00pm Martin Layton with Big Game and Dave and David 9.00pm Big Band Special. The BBC Big Band under Barry Forgie, from Eden Court Theatre, Inverness. With the jazz pianist, Monty Alexander 9.30pm Hayes Over Britain 10.00pm Richard Ainsworth 12.00pm Steve Madden 3.00pm Alex Lester. Includes at 3.30pm Pause for Thought

Radio 5 Live

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 8.00pm The Magazine 12.00pm Midday with Mark 2.00pm Russell on Five 4.00pm Nationwide 7.00pm News 7.30pm Football Legends: A new series in which Jimmy Armfield talks to great players of the past, beginning with Jimmy Greaves, 8.00pm David Meller's Football Forum. The first of the season's discussion programmes comes from White Hart Lane in north London 10.00pm News Talk 11.00pm News Extra with Valerie Sanderson 12.00pm After Hours with Paul Hogg and Sheila McClelland 2.00pm Up All Night with Fred Sharp 5.00pm Morning Reports

Talk Radio

6.30am The Breakfast Show with Paul Ross and Carol McGiffin 9.00pm Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00pm Drivetime with Peter Dinkley 7.00pm Anna Reebum 9.00pm James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

Radio 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Vivaldi (Magnificat in G minor); Mozart (Symphony No 23 in A); Liszt (Hungarian Fantasy No 2 in C sharp minor); Chabrier (Joyeuse marche); Bach, an (Wachet auf dem Ruhestuhl); Strauss (Suite Le bourgeois gentilhomme) 9.00pm Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Handel (Water Music Suite No 1 in F); Beethoven (Andante favori); Strauss (Serenade for Paul Hogg and Sheila McClelland); Dvorak (Slovak Dances: No 7 in C minor); No 8 in G minor) 10.00pm Musical Encounters, with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Prokofiev (Choral Overture); Liszt (Broken Consort in D); Kozmich (Seven Stars Symphony, first mv); Mozart (Violin Sonata in E minor); Sverdrup (Carnival in Paris); Ravel (Trois poemes de Mallarmé); Prokofiev (Mourning Suite) 12.00pm Composer of the Week: Muzio Clementi 1.00pm News; From St Johns. A concert given last year by Ralph Kriegerbaum, cello, and Roger Williams, piano (Solo Cello Suite No 3 in C, BWV1009); Shostakovich (Cello Sonata) (1) 2.00pm The BBC Orchestra. The first of a new series BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under Tadaaki Otaka. Includes: Jansons, with Cheryl Studer, soprano, and Arturo Pizarro, piano, includes Wagner (Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, Prelude to Act 1); Takemitsu (A Flock Descends into the Pentagonal Garden); Strauss (Four Last Songs); Rachmaninov (Rhapsody in a Theme of Paganini); Beethoven (Symphony No 5 in C minor) 4.00pm Music Matters, with Ivan Hewitt (1)

Radio 4

5.55pm Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00pm News Briefing 6.10pm Farming Today 6.25pm Prayer for the Day 6.30pm Today 8.45pm Speak After the Beep. See Choice (1/5) 8.55pm Weather 9.00pm News 9.05pm Start the Week, with the Times columnist Melvyn Bragg and his guests 10.00pm Daily Service (LW). From St Andrew's and St George's Parish Church, Edinburgh 10.00pm News: Bidding with the Past (FM). Presented by Ronald Hutton 10.15pm On This Day (LW) 10.30pm Woman's Hour. Jenni Murray talks to Eileen Gray, founder of The Women's Cycle Racing Association 11.30pm Money Box Live, with Vincent Duggdale 12.00pm News: You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker 12.25pm Round Britain Quiz. The North of England meet the Midlands in the cryptic quiz chaired by Nick Clarke 12.55pm Weather 1.00pm The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40pm The Archers (1) 1.55pm Shipping Forecast (LW) 2.00pm News: David, by Nick Waplington. A drama following the life of the Old Testament's King David. With Michael Sheen and David De Keyser (2/2) 3.00pm The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor 4.00pm News 4.05pm Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker sees a new production of Laika's The House of Bernarda Alba at Glasgow's Tronway, and hears the newly declared Bodley shortlist 4.45pm Short Story: Voodoo Cantata, by Gal Hughes. Read by Carolyn Jones

World Service

6.00am Newsday 6.30pm Europe Today 7.15pm A Step Too Far 7.30pm Omnibus 8.00pm News 8.15pm On the Shelf 8.30pm The Vintage Chart Show 9.00pm News: New in German (648 only) 9.15pm Pause for Thought 9.15pm International Question Time 10.00pm News 10.05pm World Service Report 10.15pm Ends of the World 10.30pm BBC English: Britain Now 10.45pm Sport 11.00pm Newsday 11.30pm Omnibus 12.00pm Newsday 12.30pm Newsday 1.00pm News: New in German (648 only) 1.05pm World Service Report 1.15pm Britain Today 1.30pm Seven Days 1.45pm Sport 2.00pm Newsday 3.00pm News 3.05pm Outlook 3.30pm Chit Chat 4.00pm World News 4.05pm Sport 4.15pm Encyclopedia 4.30pm Newsday 4.35pm Britain Today 4.45pm Newsday 5.00pm World Service Report 5.45pm Britain Today 5.50pm News 6.15pm The World Today 6.30pm Seven Days; News in German (648 only) 6.45pm Sport 7.00pm Newsday 7.30pm Break of Britain: Newsday 8.00pm Outlook 8.25pm Pause for Thought 8.30pm Newsday 8.45pm 9.00pm Newsday 9.15pm News: New in German (648 only) 9.15pm Newsday 10.00pm News 10.05pm World Service Report 10.15pm Britain Today 11.30pm Newsday 11.30pm The World Today 11.45pm Sport 12.00pm News 12.05pm Outlook 12.30pm Multitask Hit List 1.00pm Newsday 1.30pm Report on an Unfinished Space Station 1.45pm Britain Today 2.00pm Newsday 2.30pm Seven Days 2.45pm Home Is Where the Heart Is 3.00pm Newsday 3.30pm Screen 4.00pm News 4.05pm World Service Report 4.15pm Sport 4.30pm Europe Today 5.00pm Newsday 5.30pm Europe Today

Classic FM

6.00am Alan Martin 9.00am Henry Kelly 1.00pm Yesterday Request Hour 2.00pm Concerto Haydn (Obob Concerto in C) 3.00pm Request Hour 7.00pm Newsday 7.30pm Sonata, L.F. Dauprat (Sonata for Horn and Harp) 8.00pm Evening Concert. Schubert (Mass No 6 in A flat; Intende Voci; Tantum Ergo in E flat) 10.00pm Jane Marchant 2.00pm Concerto (1) 3.00pm Mark Griffiths

Virgin Radio

7.00am Russ and Jon's Breakfast Experience 10.00pm Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00pm Nicky Horse 1.00pm Nicky Abbott 10.00pm Russ and Jon's Breakfast Experience

Radio 3

4.45pm Music Machine, with Tommy Pearson (1) 5.00pm In Tune, with Sean Rafferty. Includes Sate (Zigeunerweisen); Sibelius (Karelia Suite); Prokofiev (Symphony No 1, Classical) 7.30pm Performance on 3rd evening of dance music from Broadcasting House in Vienna. Ensemble Wien performs Ländler and German dances by Haydn, Beethoven, Schubert and Mozart. Lanner (New Viennese Ländler); Johann Strauss, son (Rasch in der Tull; Johann Strauss, father (Sorgenbrecher); Johann Strauss, son (Waltz Frühlingssymmetrie) 8.20pm Cheese. With Sydney Hughes, the Rt Rev Richard Harries, the Bishop of Oxford, Matilda Point, and the cheese historian Duncan Clegg 8.40pm Concert part two. Josef Strauss (Rudolpheine-Polka; Die Guten Alten Zeiten); Philipp Fahrbach Jr (Reiseaus); Lanner (Dampf-Walzer); Johann Strauss, son (Overture: Die Fledermaus) 9.35pm Postscript. Written and presented by Sue Murling. A look at the current renaissance in landscaping (1/5) (1) 10.00pm Voices. In the first of a new series, Natalie Whisen introduces highlights from the Wigmore Hall International Song Competition which took place last Saturday 10.45pm Iconoclasts. Andrew Sparling's talks to Annette Morreau, founder of the Contemporary Music Network 11.30pm Composer of the Week: Verdi (1) 12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather 1.00pm Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

Radio 4

5.00pm 5.55pm Shipping Forecast 5.55pm Weather 6.00pm Six O'Clock News 6.30pm News Quiz, with Simon Hoggart, and panellists Jeremy Hardy, Clive Anderson and the Times columnist Alan Coren (1) 7.00pm News 7.05pm The Archers 7.20pm Points of Reference. A look at the points of the compass and what they mean. With contributions from Dr Robin Baker, David Broughton, Charles Burton, Dr Gloria Clifton, Ian McCaskill, Patrick Moore and Francis Spufford (1/4) (1) 7.45pm The Monday Play: Spawton, by Diane Samuels. A young Asian girl discovers her local mosque has been desecrated. With Rina Mahoney (1) 9.15pm No Man Is an Island. Fergus Kearney journeys through his native Ireland and explores the changes that have shaped the country over the last three decades (1/4) (1) 9.30pm Kaleidoscope (1) 9.59pm Weather 10.00pm The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig 10.45pm Book at Bedtime: Stories by Mark Twain. See Choice (1/5) 11.00pm Being American. Simon Parkes joins an typical American family on their annual summer vacation (2/4) (1) 11.30pm Bertie and the Crime of Passion, by Peter Lacey. A historical mystery starring Robert Lang and Jane Lapland (2/4) (1) 12.00pm News 12.30am The Late Book: The Debt to Pleasure, by John Lanchester. The Debt to Pleasure, by John Lanchester (5/10) (1) 12.45pm Shipping Forecast (LW) 1.00am As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 152. RADIO 5. FM 95.0-96.0. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648. LW 158 (12.45-5.55am). Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Louchely Liverpoolian in the Lake District

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Some years ago I walked into what I now realise must have been an early rehearsal for *The Lakes* (BBC1). We had been enjoying a favourite walk Ambleside to Trout Beck and back — a leisurely climb on the way out, absolutely exhausting on the steep but spectacular way back again. We had earned a drink, so chose a posh-looking pub and walked into it. bedlam.

The party had clearly been in full swing for hours. You could cut the smoke with a knife, a small fight had broken out in one corner and an ambitious couple were attempting to dance. That was nothing compared with what a number of other ambitious couples were attempting to do on the plush velvet benches. Who would have thought it: snogging... in the Lake District... at 4.30pm? "Is it always like this?" I asked the burman "Only when it rains," he said, and smiled. We didn't stay

long — about an hour and a half. So, when Jimmy McGovern tells us that the Lake District is full of people having casual sex I believe him. His assertion that it is also full of Roman Catholic priests having their vows of chastity tested by attractive parishioners, I must take on trust. He wasn't getting confused with *Ballykissangel*, was he?

For the first half-hour, *The Lakes* was just like that Ambleside pub: lots of young people rushing around doing what young people do — in quarries, cars, barns, fields and, just once in a while, even in bed. It was all great fun and that made me nervous, because McGovern, creator of *Cracker* and chronicler of *Hillsborough*, does not believe in fun. Sure enough, it didn't last long.

Danny, our young Liverpoolian anti-hero, and Emma, who would have gone to university if she hadn't met him, had a problem. She was pregnant. She was also a

Catholic, so that was pretty much that. Straight off to the nearest council tower block... and then he got sent to prison... and then she left him and went home to mum. The same mum, by the way, who was stirring improper thoughts in the mind of the local priest, in a subplot that so far makes no sense at all, but with Mary Jo Randle and Robert Pugh on top form is lovely to watch.

By now we had the definite impression that time was fairly rushing by. Unfortunately, as McGovern's mood darkened, the same could not be said of the feature-length opening episode. The last half-hour — as instilled primed us for the disaster that duly arrived — was particularly hard going.

But I'll stick with it (to be strictly accurate it will be John Diamond snogging with it: I'm on holiday) if only because, in 90 minutes of

television, McGovern only annoyed me once: by giving Danny exactly the same fatal character flaw he gave to Fitz in *Cracker* — an addiction to gambling. Sex, death and Catholic guilt I'll accept as recurrent themes in his writing, but the repeated use of a fondness for the ponies just seems lazy. Two to one, he disagrees.

Over on BBC2, I thought the best thing about Alan Clark's

History of the Tory Party was the big lion that strode majestically through the opening titles. But the party political broadcast boys wished they had thought of that.

For his part, Clark did very little striding but an awful lot of elegant leaning and the odd bit of urbane ambulating as he covered events from the Carlton Club meeting of 1922 to the outbreak of the Second World War. If you weren't up on your British constitutional history you were in trouble. Mind you, if you weren't up on your British constitutional history you probably didn't know you were in trouble. You had either turned over in search of something less languid or you were busy accepting everything the great man said as gospel truth. So what was the Abolition was all about: "the last great establishment coup dressed up as high-mindedness." Never doubted it for a minute.

Clark's famously lazy drawl is

not ideal for television, rendering one or two words completely unintelligible. But he has goodwill behind him: the enjoyable cast of now rather elderly first-hand witnesses. The fact that it is the future of the Tory party that is rather more pressing than its history is hardly his fault. The series should go down well with those who complain there is nothing intelligent on television any more, but somewhat less positively with those who know — at here and now — there actually still is.

There was no doubting, for instance, the intelligence behind *Bookmark: The Roots of Alex Haley* (BBC2, Saturday) but its motivation seemed more puzzling. By its own admission, very little of what was in James Kent's handsomely made film was new. The serious allegations of plagiarism surfaced soon after *Roots* was published in the 1970s,

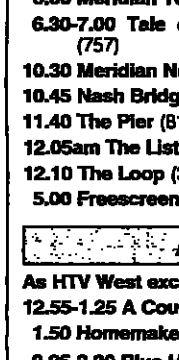
while suggestions that he had made much of it up began soon after his death, four years ago.

His brother, George, who proudly has a *Roots* family tree in his office, reacted with curious emphasis: "He didn't make it up — that's all I can say." Kent and Philip Noble, the sort of crusading investigative journalist who makes me nervous, didn't believe him, but at least they put a couple of others in the frame alongside. Could it have been his publisher, aware that a "true" account would be a far more commercial proposition than fiction? She swore not. But what about the Gambian Government which the programme alleged had conveniently "found" Haley's missing African ancestor, knowing that black American tourists would flock to its country as a result? That's not so much foresight as genius — and if it's true they deserve all the dollars they get.

- 6.00am Business Breakfast** (36626)
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (1) (96016115)
9.05am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (29549121)
WALLIS: 9.00am (1) (96016115)
9.30am Sky Challenge (1) (792912)
9.55am Killy (1) (5741573)
10.35am Change That (1) (381399)
11.00am News (1) and weather (1) (403467)
11.05am The Really Useful Show (1) (914346)
11.35am Room for Improvement The pitfalls of buying a new house (1) (271486)
12.00am News (1) and weather (1) (767369)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (9944080)
12.35am Going for a Song (9657641)
1.00am News (1) and weather (1) (38573)
1.30am Regional News (1) (7751467)
1.40am The Weather Show (8760908)
1.45am Neighbours (1) (7748760)
2.10am Quincy (1) (3247509)
3.00am Through the Keyhole (8912)
3.30am Playdays (8420115) 3.50 *Revolting* (1840028) 4.05 *The Little Mouse on the Prairie* (491312) 4.25 *The All-New Popeye Show* (3994221) 4.35 *Goosebumps* (9323484) 5.00 *Newsround* (1) (9323801) 5.10 *Blue Peter* (1) (5229778)
5.35am Neighbours (1) (1) (470202)
6.00am News (1) and weather (1) (739)
6.30am Regional News (889)
7.00am This Is Your Life Michael Aspel surprises another unsuspecting personality (3221)
7.30am Here and Now Teenage prostitution: the volunteers behind Britain's smallest radio station (573)
8.00am EastEnders A new face spells disaster for George, and Nigel receives disturbing news (1) (9641)
8.30am Prince Among Men New Prince of Wales, Prince Charles, Chris Barrie as a social climber (1) (8776)
9.00am News (1) and weather (1) (4318)
9.30am Bloomin' Marvellous After months of trying for a baby, a romantic weekend in the Lakes seems to have done the trick for Jack and Liz (1) (8134)
10.00am Panorama Jane Corbin reports on the events in Paris which lead to the accident that killed Diana, Princess of Wales (774950)
10.40am Full Circle with Michael Palin (2/10) Japan and Korea (1) (1) (20592)
WALLIS: 10.40am (1) (20592) 11.00 *FAW Football* (758395) 12.00 *Football* (3017332) 1.20 *Football* (3017332) 3.05 *News* (88811061)
11.35am Film '97 with Barry Norman Mike Leigh discusses his latest film, *Career Girls*, and his prolific work. Plus: reviews of *My Best Friend's Wedding*, with Julia Roberts and Rupert Everett, and *Photographing Fairies*, and a report from the set of Harvey Keitel's *Head Above Water* (536202)
12.05am Goin' South (1978) Jack Nicholson directs and stars in this tongue-in-cheek western about an outlaw who avoids being hanged by marrying. Also with Mary Steenburgen and Christopher Lloyd (96429)
1.45am Weather (2924852)

- 6.00am O.U. Sordid Subject of Boudier** (4731115) 6.25 *English* (4731115) 6.50 *English* (4731115) 7.15 *See Hear News* (1) (4681307)
7.30am Smurfs' Adventures (1) (789047) 7.55 *To Me, To You* (1) (789047) 8.20 *McNown and Maureen's Music-A-Grains* (1) (354592) 8.35 *Teletubbies* (1) (1365115)
9.00am Harry and the Hendersons (1) (2953283) 9.25 *Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars* (b/w) (1) (3150405) 9.45 *Rocky Star* (b/w) (1) (8954202) 9.50 *Cartoon* (8942467) 10.00 *Teletubbies* (1) (1365115)
10.30am Knights of the Plains (1938, b/w) Western drama with Fred Scott Directed by Sam Newfield (59912)
11.30am The Fugitive (b/w) (1) (9680844) 12.20pm *Complete Guide to the 20th Century* (1) (6675047)
12.30am Working Lunch (96912) 1.00 *GreedySaurus Gang* (1) (7376783) 1.10 *The Craft* (1) (233496) 2.10 *Wildlife on Two* (51704912) 2.40 *News* (1) (118198)
2.45am Match of the 1970s (1) (3089399) 3.25 *News* (1) (4161000) 3.30 *Real Rooms* (1) (467) 4.00 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (202) 4.30 *Goin' Gong*, *Go* (8927115) 4.55 *Easther* (1992806) 5.30 *Today's the Day* (738)
6.00am Battlerstar *Galactica* (1/2) (1) (1) (222399)
6.50am Sliders (1) (705467)
7.30am Off on Canvases The basic principles of portraiture (1) (115)
8.00am Decisive Moments Charting the history of war, beginning with the aircraft carrier (1) (7283)
8.30am The Travel Show Sri Lanka, Cornwall, and Co Kerry (5318)
9.00am Changing Rooms Interior design challenge (1) (5660)
9.30am Picture This A new, real-life series, beginning with a look at five people who all wait at table (1) (16776)
10.00am Never Mind the Buzzcocks New series of the pop quiz hosted by Mark Laman (1) (80039)
10.30am Newsnight Devotion special (1) (78554)
11.15am Jonathan Miller's Opera Works (3/5) The choir (1) (793405)
12.00am Weather (5003121)
12.05am Walking on Thin Ice New series, rival explorers on the ice of the Arctic Ocean (2758054)
12.15am Animation 2 (1) (4178906)
12.30am Learning Zone: O.U. Persepolis (97871) 1.30 *Jasper Johns' Flag* (91500) 2.00 *Perfect Pictures Collections* (1) (45581) 4.00 *Italia 2000* (17177) 4.30 *Royal Institute Discourse* (99516) 5.30 *RCN Nursing Update Unit* (73) (92005)

- 6.00am GMTV** (7597931)
9.25am Supermarket Sweep (1) (2950196)
9.55am Regional News (1) (1417751)
10.00am The Time (1) (7592)
10.30am This Morning (1) (1821860)
12.20pm Regional News (6671221)
12.30am News (1) and weather (9650738)
12.55am High Road (1) (9688757)
1.25am Home and Away (1) (5882318)
1.50am Mad About Men (1954) with Glynis Johns and Anne Crawford. A mermaid stands in for a young schoolteacher in order to meet men. Directed by Ralph Thomas (549231)
3.30am Tota TV (1) (1848080) 3.40 *The Slow Norris* (7661912) 3.50 *Wolves, Wolves and Giants* (1659196) 4.05 *Sooty and Co* (1) (408080) 4.25 *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* (1) (4924028) 4.50 *How 2* (1) (6720283)
5.10am WALEs: Animal Country (2767912)
5.10am We Are Seven Period drama (2767912)
5.40am News (1) and weather (546318)
6.00am Home and Away (1) (497405)
6.25am HTV Weather (366196)
6.30am HTV News (1) (757)
7.00am Talking Telephone Numbers Hosted by Philip Schofield, with Claudia Winkelman (5689)
7.30am Coronation Street Samantha must make a decision (1) (641)
8.00am World in Action Updating the stories of three teenagers, featured in a 1992 edition, who had spent their lives in care (1) (1009)
8.30am Michael Barrymore's Strike It Rich (1) (3844)
9.00am Noah's Ark Matters of Principle Noah goes after an unscrupulous dealer after being forced to put down a little girl's pony. With Anon Rodgers (1) (6026)
10.00am News (1) and weather (90663)
10.30am Regional News (1) (25950)
10.40am WALEs: Referendum 97 — Wales Decides. Reports from Cardiff and Edinburgh (283263)
11.35am Prisoner: Cell Block H (403370)
10.40am Nash Bridges: Trackdown Police series with Don Johnson (1) (236660)
11.40am WALEs: Nash Bridges (150047)
11.40am Tropical Heat A fishing trip takes a macabre turn when Spider reels in the head of a fisherman (159047)
12.40am Football Extra (8837326)
1.00am War of the Worlds (1) (1816852)
2.30am Rockman (1) (79784)
3.30am God's Gift (458245)
4.20am Recollections (30217451)
4.35am World in Action (1) (31568784)
5.00am Coronation Street (1) (19974)
5.30am News (99581)



Orta Brady as Clara Somers (9.00pm)

- 9.00am Noah's Ark** Matters of Principle Noah goes after an unscrupulous dealer after being forced to put down a little girl's pony. With Anon Rodgers (1) (6026)
10.00am News (1) and weather (90663)
10.30am Regional News (1) (25950)
10.40am WALEs: Referendum 97 — Wales Decides. Reports from Cardiff and Edinburgh (283263)
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4.35am World in Action (1) (31568784)
5.00am Coronation Street (1) (19974)
5.30am News (99581)

- As HTV West except:**
12.55pm-1.25am A Country Practice (968757)
1.50am High Road (1) (9688757)
2.50-3.20am High Road (1) (9688757)
5.10-5.40am Shortland Street (2767912)
6.25-7.00am Central News (746912)
11.40am Swift Justice (691283)
12.45am Football Extra (883032)
1.45am Late and Loud (885616)
2.45am Curtis Falls (7252535)
2.50am Film: The Day the Earth Caught Fire (168351)
4.30am Central Jobfinder '97 (4639351)
5.20am Asian Eye (1244326)
As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30am Illuminations (6662573)
12.55am Home and Away (9688757)
1.25am High Road (1) (9688757)
1.55am Murder, She Wrote (3700221)
2.50-3.20am Gardener's Diary (6162931)
5.10-5.40am Home and Away (2767912)
6.00-7.00am Westcountry Live (25347)
11.40am Prisoner: Cell Block H (159047)
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25am Shortland Street (9688757)
1.50am Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (1081950)
2.25-3.20am Blue Heelers (4481514)
5.10-5.40am Home and Away (2767912)
6.00am Meridian Tonight (405)
6.30-7.00am Tale of Four Favourite Towns (757)
10.30am Meridian News and Weather (116202)
10.45am Nash Bridges (292931)
11.40am The Pier (811405)
12.05am The Listings (2853608)
12.10am The Loop (3611351)
5.00am FreeScreen (19974)
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25am A Country Practice (9688757)
1.50am Homemaker (1061950)
2.25-3.20am Blue Heelers (4481514)
5.10-5.40am Shortland Street (2767912)
6.25-7.00am Anglia News (748912)
10.40am Backstage (760365)
12.15am Weekly World News (2276852)
As HTV West except:
12.55-1.25am A Country Practice (9688757)
1.50am Homemaker (1061950)
2.25-3.20am Blue Heelers (4481514)
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6.25-7.00am Anglia News (748912)
10.40am Backstage (760365)
12.15am Weekly World News (2276852)

- 5.55am Sesame Street** (23735)
7.00am The Big Breakfast (23136)
9.00am Something So Right (2888979)
9.25am Great Guns (1941, b/w) A Laurel and Hardy comedy in which they reduce a training camp in Texas to chaos when they enlist for the Second World War. Directed by Monty Banks (1454283)
10.45am Love's Last Hour A short about an elderly man having a conversation with his dead wife (3082467)
11.00am The Great Outdoors (1) (5172)
11.30am Here's One I Made Earlier Ian Brock, halloumi cheese and salad, fillets provencal, strawberry shortcake (1) (1221) 12.00 *Sesame Street* (87776) 12.30pm *Baby Baby* (81050) 1.00 *Light Lunch* (1) (19863) 2.00 *Stroke* A drama without words (1) (2821487)
2.20am Freedom Radio (1941, b/w) Wartime propaganda film about an Austrian doctor who becomes disillusioned with his Nazi patrons. Starring Clive Brook, directed by Anthony Asquith (918486)
4.00am Bewitched (1) (1) (370) 4.30 *Countdown* (1) (812263) 4.55 *Montel Williams* (1) (3897234) 5.30 *Pet Rescue* (1) (134)
6.00am Home Improvement American comedy series (1) (937)
6.30am Hollyoaks Teen soap (1) (389)
7.00am Channel 4 News (1) (242573)
7.50am Get Sorted The first of five programmes tackling everyday jobs around the house. Today, rustproofing a car (277283)
8.00am Undercover Britain: Football Touts A football fan investigates how tickets become available on the black market (1) (1) (2979)
8.30am Short Stories: The Bridge A team of authors tackle the task of painting the Forth Road Bridge (1) (1466)
9.00am [SHOCK] Equinox A Very British Atomic Bomb. The story of Britain's atomic bomb, featuring unique footage which has been declassified for the programme (1) (7370)
10.00am NYPD Blue Simone and Spowicz are called into a salvage yard where a woman's body has been found. Gina returns to the force (1) (7757)
11.00am Seven Sins A new series offering a 1900s perspective on the Seven Deadly Sins, beginning with Sloth (1) (2573)
11.30am The American Football Big Match Highlights (259221)
12.45am Trans World Sport (1) (889874)
1.45am Football Italia (1) (8180887)
4.10am Men Are Not Gods (1936, b/w) with Miriam Hopkins, Sebastian Shaw and Gertrude Lawrence. A melodrama about a woman who falls for an actor — much to his wife's dismay. Directed by Walter Reisch (527668)
5.35am Film and Video Showcase (1) (3605245)

- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**
 Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder N 03 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder N 03 are: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.00 MHz
6.00am 5 News Early (7306028)
7.30am 5 News (1) (5580009)
8.00am Havalak (2689711)
8.30am WideWorld The impact of computers on business (4/15) (3018252)
9.00am Express Consumer magazine (7848573) 10.00 *Exclusive* (1) (7857912) 10.25 *Give 5* (1) (5692395) 10.30 *Attractions* (1) (9619496)
11.00am Leeza Chat show (1466134)
**11.50am Give 5 (1) (98788950)
12.00am The Bold and the Beautiful Los Angeles-based soap (1) (5914888) 12.30pm *Family Affairs* (1) (9757028) 1.00 *5 News Update* (8503295) 1.05 *Sunset Beach* (1) (8641202) 2.00 *5's Company* Live entertainment (8612863)
3.30am Codename: Dancer (1987) with Kate Capshaw as a former CIA agent, now a happily married housewife, who is asked by her old employer to help to free a colleague languishing in a Cuban jail. Directed by Buzz Kulik (8702979)
5.20am Give 5 Charity appeal (1123688)
5.30am Move on Up Fast-moving game show (1) (9191405)
6.00am 100 Per Cent General knowledge quiz (9198318)
6.30am Family Affairs Nick is offered work (1) (9172370)
7.00am Oasis: Mad for It A new series exploring the different influences on the Gallagher brothers, Liam and Noel (154641)
7.30am Give 5 (9178554)
8.00am Hot Property Sandy Mitchell helps a fireman and an anthropologist to find accommodation in Cornwall for themselves and three children (1) (8170889)
8.30am 5 News (1) (8150196)
Action-packed drama (9.00pm)
9.00am Speed (1994) Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock in a drama about trying to prevent a body-snatched bus from blowing up. Directed by Jan De Bont (6136134)
11.15am The Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (1558008)
12.00am Prisoner: Cell Block H (9172351)
1.00am Live and Dangerous presented by Dominik Diamond and Shelley Webb (22713806)
3.45am Asian Football Show (6345780)
4.35am The Streets of San Francisco Police drama series starring Karl Malden (1) (6624674)
5.30am 100 Per Cent (1) (7732120)**

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**
SKY 1
6.00am Morning Glory (539198) 9.00 *Reigns and Kattie Lee* (1) (10165) 10.00 *Another World* (8467) 11.00 *Days of Our Lives* (73311) 12.00 *The Court* (1) (10165) 1.00 *Jeopardy!* (43589) 2.00 *Jeopardy!* (43589) 3.00 *Jeopardy!* (43589) 4.00 *Jeopardy!* (43589) 5.00 *Jeopardy!* (43589) 6.00 *Jeopardy!* (43589) 7.00 *Jeopardy!* (43589) 8.00 *Jeopardy!* (43589) 9.00 *Jeopardy!* (43589) 10.00 *Jeopardy!* (43589) 11.00 *Jeopardy!* (43589) 12.00 *Jeopardy!* (43589)
SKY NEWS
 Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, includes sport and business updates.
SKY MOVIES
6.00am Season of the Heart (1984) (959253) 8.00 *Season of the Heart* (1984) (959253) 10.00 *Season of the Heart* (1984) (959253) 12.00 *Season of the Heart* (1984) (959253) 2.00 *Season of the Heart* (1984) (959253) 4.00 *Season of the Heart* (1984) (959253) 6.00 *Season of the Heart* (1984) (959253) 8.00 *Season of the Heart* (1984) (959253) 10.00 *Season of the Heart* (1984) (959253) 12.00 *Season of the Heart* (1984) (959253)
THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am Jim's Gals (1994) (22751) 8.00 *Three Men in a Cradle* (1994) (50221) 10.00 *Three Men in a Cradle* (1994) (50221) 12.00 *Three Men in a Cradle* (1994) (50221) 2.00 *Three Men in a Cradle* (1994) (50221) 4.00 *Three Men in a Cradle* (1994) (50221) 6.00 *Three Men in a Cradle* (1994) (50221) 8.00 *Three Men in a Cradle* (1994) (50221) 10.00 *Three Men in a Cradle* (1994) (50221) 12.00 *Three Men in a Cradle* (1994) (50221)
SKY SPORTS 1
6.00am Football (22950) 7.00 *Sports* (22950) 8.00 *Sports* (22950) 9.00 *Sports* (22950) 10.00 *Sports* (22950) 11.00 *Sports* (22950) 12.00 *Sports* (22950)
SKY SPORTS 2
6.00am Football (22950) 7.00 *Sports* (22950) 8.00 *Sports* (22950) 9.00 *Sports* (22950) 10.00 *Sports* (22950) 11.00 *Sports* (22950) 12.00 *Sports* (22950)
SKY SPORTS 3
6.00am Football (22950) 7.00 *Sports* (22950) 8.00 *Sports* (22950) 9.00 *Sports* (22950) 10.00 *Sports* (22950) 11.00 *Sports* (22950) 12.00 *Sports* (22950)

- SKY MOVIES GOLD**
6.00pm The Millionaire (1980) (8713221) 8.00 *The Millionaire* (1980) (8713221) 10.00 *The Millionaire* (1980) (8713221) 12.00 *The Millionaire* (1980) (8713221) 2.00 *The Millionaire* (1980) (8713221) 4.00 *The Millionaire* (1980) (8713221) 6.00 *The Millionaire* (1980) (8713221) 8.00 *The Millionaire* (1980) (8713221) 10.00 *The Millionaire* (1980) (8713221) 12.00 *The Millionaire* (1980) (8713221)
TNT
6.00pm G.I. Joe (1985) (37032641) 1.00 *G.I. Joe* (1985) (37032641) 2.00 *G.I. Joe* (19

